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Oct. 18-24, 2012

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Two NE Queens temples merge as area changes



for Bayside biz

BY PHIL CORSO

With Halloween lurking around the corner, Bayside's Party City owner Lucy Tinari said some illegal parking was scaring away customers during one of her busiest seasons.

Her business, at 213-02 Northern Blvd., sits near the intersection of Northern and Bell boulevards, where two food carts conduct business daily. Aside from her initial concerns over sanitary conditions and unfair business competition, Tinari said drivers passing by the carts have been stopping in her parking lot to take up spots or illegally park in no-parking zones while they purchase food from the carts.

"This is the gateway to our community," Tinari said. "There are never enough parking spots for our customers. It gets so frustrating."

Earlier this month, Tinari took her concerns to Community Board 11, asking board members to help her in cleaning up the crowded car craze in the singular parking lot, which Party City shares with a CVS Pharmacy at the intersection. She said the unwanted foot traffic related to the food carts in the area has led to unsanitary conditions, including litter, foul odors and pigeons pecking away at leftover scraps,

Continued on Page 20

Illegal parking poses problems Rozic rejects voter apathy theory

Assembly candidate defends win as stats reveal turnout rose in fall primary

BY PHIL CORSO

Questions over voter apathy have left some supporters of Community Board 11 Chairman Jerry Iannece wondering how their candidate could have lost in Sep-

tember's primary election. On Sept. 13, Democratic and

Working Families candidate Nily Rozic, of Fresh Meadows, bested Iannece, the Independence candidate, in the Democratic state Assembly primary with roughly

500 more votes, according to official results from the city Board of Elections.

Treats for

Halloween

QGuide Page 41

Since her victory, many Ian-Elections 📅 nece supporters have laid some of

the blame on their own, saying their candidate would have enjoyed a clean victory if they were not so complacent.

In a TimesLedger Newspapers column published last week, Continued on Page 21



Fidia the clown paints Dallas Bird's face during Redeemer Lutheran Church's Oktoberfest, held on Bell Boulevard in Bayside. See more photos on Page 36. Photo by Christina Santucci

Queens synagogues merge

Little Neck and Bayside congretations join to survive population shift

BY JOE ANUTA

If you look closely at the ark inside the new Congregation L'Dor V'Dor in Little Neck, you will see double the Torahs. On Sunday, two north-

east Queens conservative synagogues celebrated their successful merger, a process that has become more common over the past decade and that prominent members of the hybrid congregation contend will become essential to survive as the borough's demographics continue to shift. But religious ideologies do not always align perfectly.

"The Jewish demographic in northeast Queens is such that new families are not moving in," said Rabbi Gordon Yaffe, who was previously the rabbi of the Little Neck Jewish Center, but now presides over both his old congregation, at 49-10 Little Neck Pkwy., and that of the former Oakland Jewish Center, which was in Bayside.

The congregation's new name means "from generation to generation," and the faithful from both synagogues hope the merger will create a thriving Jewish community with the 300 families now worshipping under the same roof. But that number is down considerably from the Little Neck Jewish Center's heyday. In the 1980s, about 900 families worshipped at the synagogue, according

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Political Action14

ings Inc. 41-02 Bell Boulevard, Bayside, N.Y. 11361.



A musician helps two northeast Queens synagogues celebrate their recent merger. Photo by Joe Anuta

to Yaffe.

The Jewish population in northeast Queens is shrinking as the Asian-American population is booming, according to the 2010 U.S. census.

About two years ago, the board at the Oakland Jewish Center saw that dwindling attendance meant it would not be able

IN THIS ISSUE

to survive on its own much longer, so it went shopping for another synagogue to team up with — a process one member likened to dating.

"We wanted a place where we felt comfortable," said Bob Stern, former president of the Oakland Jewish Center and now copresident of L'Dor V'Dor.

Borough Beat47

"We didn't want our history or tradition to be lost."

After courting several congregations, the board decided Yaffe, the forwardthinking rabbi in Little Neck, and his team were the best fit — although it was not a perfect fit.

For instance, men and women in Yaffe's congregation performed the same duties, which was a progressive step for the faithful from the Bayside center, where men had a more prominent role in religious life.

"This was a step forward," Stern said. "It's been well-received."

The Bayside crowd also had memorial plaques that needed to be moved to the Little Neck synagogue, and with the infusion of money from their dues, they wanted to ensure elderly members were provided with transportation to and from the synagogue.

For Yaffe, it was a chance to build on an infusion of energy into the synagogue and took care of more practical matters as well.

"From our perspective, if we were going to sustain ourselves and look to the future, we needed a broader financial base," he said.

With a larger monetary base to draw from, the synagogue can offer more programs and activities to keep religious life buzzing, even outside of worship.

Continued on Page 20

BY PHIL CORSO

Three Brothers store

shuts its doors on Bell

Bayside's barbecue and butcher shop has closed on Bell Boulevard, leaving a void of Southern specialty stores in the business district.

Three Brothers Butcher BBQ, which once resided at 40-21 Bell Blvd. since it opened in 2005, closed its big red front gate for good at the summer's end without explanation. Though the owners of the butcher shop could not be reached. those close to the business have said Executive Chef Tom DiLeo and Manager Joe DiLeo shifted their family-owned business to online catering and no longer needed their location on Bell.

The eatery specialized in barbecue favorites including pulled pork, chicken, corn bread, skillet corn, macaroni and cheese, potato salad and ribs.

Lyle Sclair, executive director of the Bayside Village Business Association, said he heard Three Brothers was still offering \catering services, but noted that repeated calls to the phone number listed on the shop's website went unanswered due to an unavailable voice mailbox.

There are currently no plans in place for the vacant property on Bell Boulevard, Sclair said.

"This is why we hold our Roll Up the Gates events," Sclair said, mentioning an activity in which the BID showcases its openings along Bell Boulevard to potential tenants. "We want to be proactive so people can fill spaces as quickly as possible, and we have been in touch with property owners to let them know this service is available. So far, we have seen a lot of positive feedback."

The storefront was once home to Westi's Quality Meats, which closed for business in 2004 after nearly 40 years in Bayside. Westi's founder Ossi Mai-*Continued on Page 20*



Bayside's Three Brothers Butcher in Bayside is no longer in business on Bell Boulevard after it closed its doors at summer's end.

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Strawberry's closes after two-year run in Doug

BY JOE ANUTA

Strawberry's Sports Grill in Douglaston opened its doors for the last time Sunday, when a group of loyal customers gathered to watch the New York Jets and New York Yankees games, ordered pizza to compensate for the empty kitchen and did their part to deplete the eaterv's remaining stockpiles of alcohol

The closure of Strawberry's was just the latest in a string of failed operations at 42-15 235th St., which has hosted numerous establishments over the last few decades.

On Sunday, there was no shortage of theories as to what went wrong this time at the restaurant first opened in August 2010 by former professional baseball player Darryl Strawberry.

The slightly raucous atmosphere inside the bar had a wistful edge, like the tavern was hosting its own wake. Employees of the now-defunct pub drank together in a corner booth. while locals lamented the loss of yet another watering hole just off the Douglaston Long Island Rail Road stop. "It won't be the same."

said Andy McAdam, who was there with his wife and grown daughters.

The bar played a crucial role at the end of 235th Street, functioning as both a highly rated restaurant and a down-to-earth location where neighbors could catch their hometown team.

"Everyone here is a Mets or Jets fan." McAdam said, which made it nice since not only was Darryl Strawberry a former New York Met, but his old teammates would also stop by for a meal and sign autographs for star-struck diners.

But the real star of the business was Darryl's



Loyal Strawberry's customer Andy McAdam (I.) and Douglaston Chamber of Commerce President Joani Emerson share some laughs on the 235th Street eatery's final day of operation. Photo by Joe Anuta

brother, Michael Strawberry, who was the face of the restaurant and a personal friend of many who frequented the bar, according to McAdam.

Joani Emerson, president of the Douglaston Chamber of Commerce. echoed McAdam's assessment of Strawberry.

"Michael Strawberry has been a leader in the community and we're all really sad to see this place go," she said, adding that Strawberry organized charity events and participated in festivals.

Michael Strawberry sat nearby, stoic behind the cash register, his expression clashing with the festive green Jets beads and jersey he was wearing.

"There's nothing to say," he told TimesLedger Newspapers.

But residents had plenty of theories as to why vet another business was shuttered at the sleepv culde-sac near the LIRR. The location once housed a bar called The Weeping Beech beginning in the 1970s. In the 1990s, the name changed to F. Scott's, which lasted for about 10 years, according to residents. Then the name changed to B.K. Sweeney's for a few more

vears before it became a George Martin steak house and then Michael's Chop House, which only lasted for a few months.

"I think this place is cursed," said one longtime resident, who was sipping a glass of an exotic whiskey.

Other theories included a lack of foot traffic, high rent and rising prices coupled with a bad economy.

Flip Arbelaez, who works for Southern Hospitality Group, a partial owner of the eatery, said that constant marketing was needed to draw customers. He added Darryl Strawberry began focusing more on being a minister in the Christian church, which might not have aligned well with owning a bar.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@ cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.



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Biz has ties to Willets LDC

City's Iron Triangle consulting firm also works on public impact study

BY JOE ANUTA

TimesLedger, Oct. 18-24, 2012 TIMESLEDGER.CON

A Manhattan consulting company often tapped for city development projects plays dual roles in Queens, having supported a nonprofit that advocates for the redevelopment of Willets Point, but also preparing the study that helps determine whether or not that development will go forward.

AKRF is a Manhattanbased environmental consulting firm that operates in several states around the Eastern Seaboard and specializes in environmental impact statements — studies on how development projects will affect the surrounding area by taking into account factors like changes to traffic, pollution and noise and the character of existing neighborhoods.

In New York City, these studies are used to inform legislative decisions on whether to grant approvals for projects like the \$3 billion redevelopment in Willets Point, where private



Linh Do speaks at a hearing about the redevelopment of Willets Point.

developers hope to replace the collection of junk yards and auto body shops with a large, mixed-use development.

AKRF is preparing the environmental impact statement for Willets Point. At a Sept. 27 public hearing in Corona, Linh Do, senior vice president at AKRF, walked a crowd through how the statement would proceed and solicited input on what the company

should consider when preparing it.

But AKRF was also hired by the Flushing Willets Point Corona LDC, a nonprofit headed by former Borough President Claire Shulman.

The LDC has received state grant money to try and revitalize development along the Flushing waterfront west of downtown and across the Flushing River from Willets Point. After a bidding process, it selected AKRF to lead a team to perform environmental consulting and analyze ways the redevelopment of the area could move forward.

Do also spoke at a June meeting in Flushing where she updated the public on AKRF's progress on this project.

In a subsequent interview, Do said the projects are completely separate, since they come from different sources, and that they present no conflict of interest on the part of AKRF, which as an industry leader is constantly juggling multiple projects.

"One doesn't rely on the other," she said. "They acknowledge each other. They are part of a longer term community planning process."

Do said she is also constantly working on multiple projects, and gave both presentations because she is familiar with Queens and knows the community.

But according to 2011 filings with the Internal *Continued on Page 48* BY JOE ANUTA

The nonpartisan commission charged with drawing new City Council districts has isolated itself from criticism by not completing a comprehensive first draft, critics of the process contended at the final public hearing in Queens last week.

The New York City Districting Commission is composed of 15 appointees from the five boroughs who are supposed to follow a set of rules to redraw the lines in response to population changes recorded in the 2010 U.S. census, ensuring neighborhoods and communities are kept together and federal voting guidelines that prevent discrimination against minorities are followed. A final chance for public input was held at La-Guardia Community College Oct. 10.

After a packed August public hearing in Queens — where community members demanded changes to what many referred to as gerrymandered districts that split certain neighborhoods and denied residents there fair representation in city government — the commission released its first draft of the new maps in early September.

The commissioner, Manhattan lawyer Benito Romano, has repeatedly said the draft lines were not radically changed from the existing layout, but were rather adjusted sim-

were rather adjusted sim-Continued on Page 48

sign.

Abrar Taseen and David Kim, both 15, show their support for a Queens nonprofit that seeks more equitable City Council districts. Photo by Joe Anuta

Katz to run for borough president slot

BY STEVE MOSCO

It was not an easy decision, but Queens lifer Melinda Katz said the time is right to get back into government.

And Katz made it official



her campaign in the race for borough president.

"I took several months thinking about where I wanted to be in my life," said Katz. "I've spent the majority of my adulthood working in government and those were some of the greatest times in my life." Those times included stretches as Democratic state assemblywoman from 1993-98 and city councilwoman from 2001-09, representing areas, including Rego Park and Forest Hills.

Katz ran for Congress in 1998, finishing a close second to former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, while also finishing behind City Comptroller John Liu when she ran for that position in 2009.

Her political career began with three years working at Borough Hall under longtime Borough President Claire Shulman. In the meantime, she has served as a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, a Man-



Former City Councilwoman Melinda Katz (c.) readies for her campaign with U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (l.) and Borough President Helen Marshall.

Photo courtesy Marie Figueroa

hattan law firm, where she specializes in government affairs and land use. Katz, 47, said her experience working with lawmakers in the city's most diverse borough gives her insight into the most pressing issues facing residents.

"Everyone has core wants for their children and their families," she said in an interview. "People want their children to have a good education and they want to be able to walk safely through the streets."

She cited education and affordable housing as primary issues she believes would be her priorities if she makes it to the borough president's office, which Helen Marshall will vacate next year due to term lim-*Continued on Page 48*

Redistricting hearing panned by boro civics

ply to ensure they fit within

the population constraints

said at a Sept. 4 public meet-

ing of the commission in

Manhattan, "Instructions

to the staff was to produce a

proposed map which mere-

ly adjusts the Council lines

for population so that they remain within the narrow

band permitted by law and

to see as a baseline, what

the final public comment

period in the process. And

since, according to Roma-

no's words, the first draft

was merely an adjustment

for population, the public

will not be able to critique

any of the major changes to

neighborhood representa-

tion drawn by the commis-

sion. And those lines will

when our members and al-

lies make their statements

today, it's for good reason,"

said James Hong on behalf

of the Asian American

Community Coalition on

Redistricting and Democ-

racy. "Little has changed

since August, when we

were commenting on the

American Legal Defense

and Education Fund con-

tends the slight nature of

the adjustments was by de-

A lawyer for the Asian

"They really insulated

current district lines."

"If it feels like deja vu

be in effect for 10 years.

But the Oct. 10 public hearing in Queens was

that would look like."

"The emphasis here is on 'preliminary," Romano

stipulated by city law.

Sharpton eulogizes driver shot by officer

Noel Polanco, fatally injured after GCP traffic stop, remembered by family, Guardsmen at Corona church

BY REBECCA HENELY

More than 150 mourners, many of whom wore National Guardsmen uniforms, filled the seats and lined the walls at the Eternal Love Baptist Church in Corona Friday to say goodbye to Noel Polanco, a 22-year-old man who was shot by a police detective during a traffic stop even though he was unarmed.

"I just want to say my son was an amazing child," said Polanco's mother Cecilia Reyes during the funeral. "He had a great heart."

Officers in two Emergency Service Unit Apprehension Team vehicles had seen Polanco Oct. 4 at around 5:15 a.m. on the Grand Central Parkway near Exit 7 in East Elmhurst driving erratically in a black 2012 Honda Fit Hybrid, cutting through the vehicles and tailgating another car, police said. Officers pulled Polanco over and one of them, Detective Hassan Hamdy, ended up shooting Polanco in the stomach, according to the NYPD. He died at New York Hospital Queens in Flushing shortly thereafter, police said.

No weapon was found in the car, the DA said.

Polanco was a National Guard Reserves member who worked at Paragon Honda in Woodside during the day and the Ice Lounge in Astoria at night as a hookah maker and seller. He was also a member of the Center of Attention Auto Club and a tattoo artist.

Members of both his National Guard company and the auto club came to the funeral, held at the church at 54-07 99th St., along with friends and family members. Minister and activist the Rev. Al Sharpton, who walked with Reyes into the church, gave an ex-



Friends and family of Noel Polanco comfort one another during his funeral held at Eternal Love Baptist Church in Corona. Photo by Ken Maldonado

tensive eulogy calling for Hamdy's prosecution.

"When you saw him, you saw a suspect instead of a sergeant," Sharpton said. "We need to stop this reckless disregard for human life."

Philip Karasyk, of Karasyk & Moschella LLP, who is representing Hamdy, said Polanco had refused the officers' orders multiple times and that Hamdy had observed what he believed was Polanco reaching down for a weapon.

"Police officers operate on an offending scale of threat," Karasyk said.

Diane DeFerrari, who was in Polanco's car and witnessed the shooting, said Polanco had kept his hands on the steering wheel.

Reyes had met with Queens District Attorney Richard Brown the day before with her attorneys, Sanford Rubenstein and Michael Hardy. She told a news conference in front of Queens Criminal Court that she believed she would get "justice" for her son's death.

Brown said in a statement that he told Reyes and her attorneys during their meeting that his office was looking into the incident based on the facts and the law.

"I assured them that our investigation is active and ongoing, and that it will be completed as expeditiously as possible," Brown said. "I pointed out, however, that the investigation is still in its early stages."

Hardy said Reyes, the Polanco family and DeFerrari would cooperate with the investigation and that he expected a grand jury to rule in Reyes' favor.

"No person in this borough should be subjected to a wrongful death," Hardy said.

Karasyk said he and his client were "ready and willing" to cooperate with the DA.

Motorcycles should park free in Muni-Meter spots: Vallone

BY REBECCA HENELY

The motorcyclists who parked their Harley-Davidsons in front of Queens Borough Hall last Thursday said they want to obey the law, but are not sure how.

While standing parking meters that take quarters offer a secure place for motorcycles to park, riders say there is no place for them to secure a Muni-Meter parking receipt where it will not potentially be blown away or stolen.

Motorcycle enthusiasts City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) and state Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (D-Jackson Heights) have thus proposed legislation exempting motorcycle riders from paying Muni-Meters.

More than a dozen motorcycle riders, both men and women, came out to support the legislation. "We are not the Sons

of Anarchy, we are the sons and daughters of New York City," Vallone said, referencing the TV show. "This is about fairness for motorcycle riders when they park."

DenDekker said his inspiration for the legislation came when he received a \$65 ticket the previous week for failing to display a Muni-Meter receipt on his motorcycle.

"I'll be honest. I did not buy one," DenDekker said. "I did not buy it because I don't have any place to put it."

A spokesman for the city Department of Transportation said it does not comment on proposed legislation until it comes to a hearing. The DOT's website, however, recommends motorcyclists use clear plastic holders that they can attach to their bikes with a lock. The department said these holders can be found in what it called specialty stores.

DenDekker criticized this description as being too vague. He suggested the state Department of Motor Vehicles give these to motorcyclists when they register every year.

Continued on Page 48

Cornell unveils its plans for Roosevelt Isle campus

BY REBECCA HENELY

Cornell released plans for the first phase of its applied sciences graduate school on Roosevelt Island Monday, with a rendering of the first academic building to be built out on the new campus in 2017.

The Ithaca, N.Y., ^{ISIAN} institution, which has partnered with Haifa, Israel's Technion — Israel Institute of Technology to create the campus, said they are presenting the pictures to the public as part of the seven-month land use review process. The

Technion-Cornell Innova-



Cornell University has been showing renderings of the first academic building to be constructed at its tech campus on Roosevelt Island as part of the land use review process. Rendering courtesy Kilograph

> tion Institute's first academic building is planned to produce as much energy as it consumes.

> "Our campus won't look like any other university campus that exists today," Daniel Huttenlocher, dean of the new campus,

said in a statement. "We are determined to innovate in every aspect of the development, from the way that students, faculty, researchers, industry and the local community are intermingled, to the sustainability of our buildings and their iconic architecture."

SS. The first phase graph of the campus, with construction set to begin in 2014 and the opening scheduled for 2017, includes an academic building with a rooftop photovoltaic canopy that will create the same amount of solar energy as the building is ex-

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Qns pols back industry suit challenging city soda ban

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Queens politicians from the left and right voiced their agreement with a recent lawsuit filed by the beverage industry last week against the controversial soda ban limiting the size of sugary drinks in many city venues.

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said it is unfortunate the public has to resort to suing over the rule, but he contended the measure goes way too far in the direction of a nanny state.

"Obesity is a real problem," he said. "But you're not going to solve it by reducing the size of big sodas."

The soda rule, passed by the city Board of Health last month, will limit the size of sugary drinks to 16 ounces in any establishment that requires a city Department of Health grade, including restaurants, movie theaters and sports arenas, but not in other venues such as 7-Elevens or grocery stores.

The American Beverage Association and several other soft-drink industry and restaurant groups filed the lawsuit Friday in State Supreme Court in Manhattan. The suit argues the Board of Health did not have the authority to pass the rule, which should have gone through the City Council as legislation instead.

Avella said there are more effective ways to fight obesity, such as increasing school programs for physical education. He pointed to a school in his district, which he says does not have a gym, as an example. He also said in some schools students are eating lunch as early as 10 a.m.

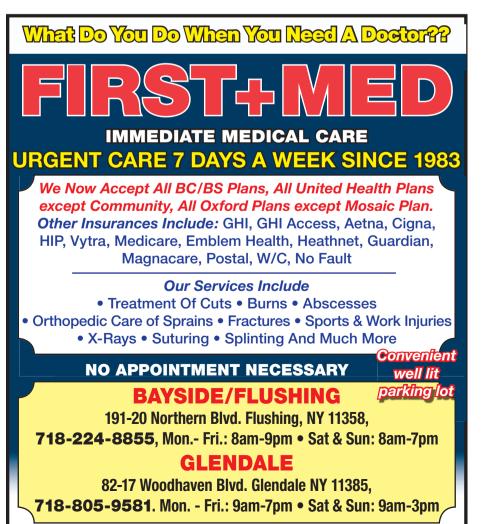
"These are real problems. Why isn't he addressing these things?" Avella said, referring to Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who proposed the rule as a way to cut obesity rates.

Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone), who has long been a vocal opponent of the rule, said a lawsuit was to be expected.

"It was inevitable," he said. "The ban has legal infirmities because it is not equally applied to businesses in the city of New York."

Avella maintained the rule should have been proposed as a bill to be voted on by the Council.

"Anything that regulates behavior by the citizens of New York should go through the legislative body," he said.



6

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TERM #23

Here is proof that snoring can be corrupting your health and your marriage. Three out of 10 couples are considering divorce because of snoring says a major magazine article. You are not alone! An official survey says 48% of all people snore. 75% are affected, if you add non-snoring husbands that have snoring wives or vice versa. Snoring is caused by slack muscles in the throat. A common complaint is that people feel that they are not well rested in the morning. Many people wrote they are now sleeping like a babies. Their partners are delighted. This natural health product Sound Sleep #23 usually helps the first night. No side effects.

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Wednesday, October 24, 2012 5:30pm to 8:00pm Alley Pond Environmental Center 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston, New York 11362

DEP will provide a brief presentation on the LTCP process for the Alley Creek Waterbody at 6:00pm.

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is starting the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for the Alley Creek Waterbody/Watershed area and would like to hear from you on current public use of the Alley Creek waterbody/watershed area and possible longterm solutions to achieve waterbody-specific water quality standards consistent with the Federal CSO Policy and the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

At the meeting, you will be able to learn about DEP's current and upcoming efforts to reduce CSOs and how you can provide input on possible solutions. Also, DEP and DEC staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.

To RSVP, please email ltcp@dep.nyc.gov or call DEP's Community Partnerships Office at (718) 595-3496.

For more information on DEP's CSO program, please visit our web site at www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp or on www.Facebook.com/NYCWater.

HOW TO GET THERE

Please visit the web site at www.alleypond.com for travel directions by car or mass transit.







POLICE Blotter Girl sexually assaulted in Pomonok library

POMONOK — The NYPD released a photo of the man wanted in connection with sexually abusing a young girl Monday inside a Queens library.

At about 4 p.m., a man walked into the Pomonok branch of the Queens Public Library, at 158-21 Jewel Ave., and sexually abused a 10-year-old girl, according to the NYPD.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic man between the ages of 20 to 25, 5 feet 10 inches tall and about 200 pounds, police said.



Police released a sketch of a suspect in the sexual abuse of a 10 year old in the Pomonok branch of Queens Library. Sketch courtesy NYPD

Flushing teen missing since early Oct.: NYPD



FLUSHING — Police were asking for the public's help in locating a missing Flushing teenager.

On Oct. 9, Brian Hur, 14, was last seen leaving his home on 165th Street at about 11 a.m., according to police.

He is described as a 5-foot-3 Asian teenager weighing 105 pounds, police said.

BRIAN HUR

Serial iThief working LIC and Astoria: Cops

LONG ISLAND CITY — A serial iPhone thief has been snatching the soughtafter devices out of the hands of unsuspecting customers and pedestrians and then fleeing the scene, the NYPD said.

The fleet-footed suspect has been tied to eight incidents in Long Island City, Dutch Kills and Astoria, police said. In each instance, he approaches the victims from behind and grabs the iPhones out of their hands, police said. The victims did not sustain any injuries in the crimes, according to the NYPD, which has released a photo of the suspect.

The robber hit the Court Square stop near the E train section Aug. 1 at about 9:30 p.m., Sept. 7 at about 5:45 p.m. and Sept. 15 at about 12:40 p.m., cops said.

The suspect, described as a roughly 6-foot-tall black man about 20 years old, also snatched smart phones in Astoria: Sept. 11 at about 7:30 p.m. near the corner of 36th Avenue and 29th Street, Sept. 17 at 12:30 p.m. near the corner of 35th Avenue and 28th Street and then again at 9 p.m. near the corner of Broadway and 31st Street, Sept. 19 at about 3:30 p.m. near the corner of 37th Avenue and 31st Street and Sept. 20 at about 3:15 p.m. near the corner of 35th Avenue and 28th Street.



The NYPD is seeking information about a suspect who allegedly snatched eight iPhones in western Queens. Images courtesy NYPD

Got tips? Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477), text 274637 (CRIMES) and enter TIP577 or log on to nypdcrimestoppers.com.

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Elections 2012



Padavan-style plans

BY PHIL CORSO

As he heads into the homestretch. Republican and Conservative challenger Joe Concannon said he hoped to unseat state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) in the Nov. 6 election by convincing voters they were better off two years ago.

"As many of you know. I have pledged to model my Senate office after that of [former] Sen. Frank Padavan, who served this community so well for so many years and who has been the exemplar when it comes to excellence in both constituent services and delivering for the community," Concannon said.

Avella, the Democratic and Working Families candidate who was elected as senator of the 11th District in 2010, beat the more than 30-year incumbent Padavan, campaigning on shorter terms for public officials in the public sphere.

"Sen. Padavan was not effective in addressing the key things, such as wom-en's issues," Avella said of his predecessor last week. "The voters rejected Sen. Padavan. We have to move to the future and not the past."

Concannon approaches the November general election as Avella's only challenger and said he believed his Republican



"He speaks one thing, but does another," Concannon said, referring to Avella's calls for Silver to step down after it was revealed the speaker had quietly approved the payment of at least some taxpayer dollars to settle sexual harassment claims by a staffer who had accused Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Brooklyn) of inappropriate behavior. "I don't see the substance. If he really cared, he would have been pursuing this further."

Earlier this year, Avella introduced legislation in the Senate that would reform the independent Joint Commission on Public Ethics, giving it the authority to investigate legislators and staff while reducing the panel's membership from 14 to five.

"Though we may think we have made some reforms the past few years, we have Continued on Page 48



Republican and Conservative challenger Joe Concannon (r.) is campaigning on hopes to unseat state Sen. Tony Avella (I.) in November's general election.

Avella opponent cites Halloran straddles both sides

Backs corporate tax reform, but also women's right to choose

BY JOE ANUTA

On issues like taxes and energy policy, City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) takes a stance firmly on the right of the political spectrum in the northeast Queens congressional race, but some of his other views are most closely aligned with moderates.

Halloran is facing off against state Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) to represent a seat that covers Bayside, Flushing, Forest Hills and Rego Park, while running westward to Middle Village and Glendale.

Though Democrats outnumber Republicans in the district by about 3-to-1, Halloran hopes to tease out conservative voters in working class neighborhoods, like Ridgewood and Middle Village; voters from the orthodox Jewish and Korean communities who share some of his social mores; and small business and property owners, who might be amenable to his stance on lowering taxes and regulations, he recently told TimesLedger Newspapers in an interview with editors and reporters.

The councilman often points out that many portions of the district voted for former Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who endorsed Halloran, and elected former Republican state Sen. Frank Padavan.

Halloran, a lifelong Queens resident who has worked in the NYPD and under district attorneys in New York City and upstate, believes fixing the economy will solve many of the country's ills, and believes tax reform is one way to get there

"I think the rich should pay more," Halloran said.



City Councilman Dan Halloran discusses why he believes less government would be more beneficial to Queens residents. Photo by Christina Santucci

"But not so much more that you're saying their obligation to society is somehow to give half of what they earn."

The councilman said if he had been in Congress, he probably would have voted for the most recent tax plan created by U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), the Republican vice presidential candidate. but he has ideas of his own to simplify the system for Queens businesses owners and residents.

Halloran proposes to eliminate nearly all deductions except charitable contributions and those related to mortgages, co-ops and condos and then break income taxes into three categories: 5 percent for lowincome earners, 10 percent for middle-income earners and 15 percent for highincome earners, although those numbers would be subject to revision. The

corporate tax rate, he contends, should be set at 20 percent.

Halloran believes that by eliminating most deductions and drawing every American into the tax base it will bolster the economy from the ground up rather than trying to tax the wealthiest earners. He also believes a lower corporate tax rate would draw multinational corporate headquarters back to the country and could contribute trillions of taxable income

to the economy. Ryan's plan proposes similar tax cuts, but Democrats have criticized the plan as not being revenue neutral, since trillions of dollars would be lost from tax rolls that might not be made up from cutting deductions.

One of Halloran's campaign pledges is to lower gas prices, which he contends goes hand in hand with making America more energy independent. That can be done, according to the councilman, through projects like the now-defunct Keystone XL Pipeline, which would have funneled oil from Canada to refineries in southwest America, and also by investing in viable energy sources like nuclear power.

A controversial subject in Queens is hvdrofracking, where deposits of subterranean natural gas are released by cracking the rock formation where they are stored, Halloran said the process should move forward in New York as long it is not done in underground areas where the city gets its drinking water, since toxic chemicals are often pumped into the ground to get at the gas.

"Safety has to come Continued on Page 48

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Thousands will take strides to beat breast cancer in boro

as early as May.

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Thousands of people are expected to take part in the 19th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, held by the American Cancer Society, at Flushing Meadows Corona Park this Sunday, in what is one of the society's largest events of the year.

"It's our biggest event in Queens," said John Link, director of special events at the society, adding that other Making Strides walks will also take place in the other four boroughs. In all, more than 270 events will be held across the country.

The walks help raise money to support the society's efforts to find cures and administer support programs and services for women with breast cancer and are the culmination of a major fund-raising effort that began for some people Link said many participants in the walk set their own fund-raising goals and ask friends and family or event businesses to donate to them in support of their breast cancer walk.

But he said some people choose to raise money in other ways, such as selling American Cancer Society ribbons or pens or by throwing comedy shows or parties and raising donations at the events. All the fund-raising efforts are under the umbrella of the Making Strides walk.

"It's to encourage fundraising and to make it fun," Link said.

Some Queens vendors have also donated some items, such as a spa trip, jewelry and a Kindle Fire, which go to participants either through a raffle or if they raise more than a certain amount of money, he said.

The walk's opening ceremony will include speeches from breast cancer survivors and sponsors of the walk. St. John's University's cheerleading and dance teams and pep band will also perform.

Registration, which is free, begins at 8 a.m., the opening ceremony at 9:15 a.m. and the walk at 10 a.m. The walk will begin at the carousel near the entrance of the Queens Zoo and will wind its way around the park in a 3-mile route, ending back at the carousel.

According to American Cancer Society figures, more than 226,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer this year and nearly 40,000 will die — including nearly 470 women from Queens.



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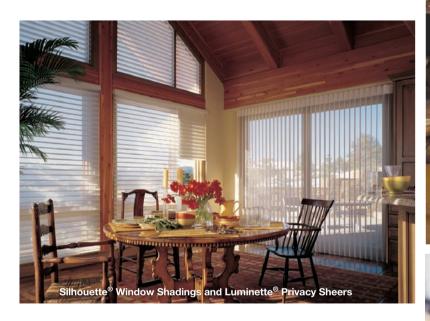
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EDITORIALS ENCOURAGE GOOD TEACHERS

The city needs a better way to evaluate teacher performance. Teachers don't want to be evaluated solely by scores on standardized tests and graduation rates.

In a letter to The New York Times, one teacher wrote, "If I must be judged on scores and not on my ability to inspire students to love learning, to love literature and learn about life from it, and to find their writer's voice, it's a sad

There were times last year when City Hall and the city Department of Education went to war with the teachers and their union, but teachers want a meaningful evaluation system that is fair and thoughtful.

A study by the Gates Foundation concludes that "teachers overwhelmingly agree that student growth over the course of an academic year is the most important metric in measuring their performance."

In addition, the study says, teachers might be evaluated by in-class observations and performance reviews.

This, of course, is far more complicated than judging teachers by standardized tests, but in the long run we want teachers who can infuse their students with a love of learning and curiosity about the world and a desire to do something with their lives.

What we don't want are teachers whose focus is preparing students to ace standardized tests.

The DOE must take the time to find better ways to measure teacher effectiveness, ways that encourage teacher excellence.

This year we hope City Hall and the teachers and their union can work together to create better schools.

MIXED MESSAGE

In a poignant letter to the editor, Jennifer Levy, a health educator, criticizes stores for putting cigarettes at the eye level of young children.

"We have many laws protecting children's health, such as child safety seats and bicycle helmets," she wrote, "but why is there no discussion of a ban on tobacco advertising that is aimed at youth?"

To that we repeat our complaint that most major Queens pharmacies sell cigarettes at the front register, often next to drugs designed to help people quit smoking.

Talk about a mixed message.

n my effort to stay informed. I attended a candidates night Oct. 10 at Holy Cross High School to listen to the candidates.

There were three candidates seeking a congressional seat and four others seeking seats in the state Assembly. I consider myself an informed and concerned citizen and was prepared to hear a discussion about the absence of a federal budget for four years, uncontrolled entitlement spending, the unaccountable Federal Reserve, the impending bankruptcy of Social Security, impending tax increases, imperiled pension obligations, countless regulatory agencies with myriad counterproductive restrictions and regulations, etc.

OTHER VOICES

Pols at candidates night were a bust

I was curious to hear their solutions on how we may avoid or mitigate the inevitable crash as we approach the fiscal cliff evervone is prognosticating.

To my dismay, it seemed as if I were in a parallel universe with a different reality, where loiterers on Northern Boulevard, noise from aircraft and a procedure for extracting gas are the major threats to our lives and economy. Only one candidate attempted to address the inevitable fiscal calamity, but was unable to elaborate due to time constraints.

VOTER APATHY

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MEANIE, MO.

Most elections do not effectuate change but serve to legitimize and reinforce the status quo, since 85 percent of incumbents are returned to office. Most of the candidates subscribe to the fashionable view that government knows best and is responsible for our welfare.

Their aim is to lull us

into a false sense of security, encourage us to follow along with the crowd and shirk personal responsibility. What is most discouraging is that most candidates and voters do not understand the issues that affect our economy. Perhaps that is why they were never addressed.

There is no doubt we have met the enemy: it is us.

> Ed Konecnik Flushing

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day for all of us."



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READERS WRITE

Flushing Meadows must remain a park for all

n 1895, Frederick Law Olmstead, the genius who created Central and Prospect parks and other famous parks elsewhere, said, "The survival of our park system requires the exclusion from management of real estate dealers and politicians and that the first duty of our park trustees is to hand down from one generation to the next the treasure of scenery which the city placed in their care.'

The increase in our urban population and the technological congestion in modern cities makes it clear Olmstead's admonition more than 100 years ago is more pertinent today. But when it comes to Flushing Meadows Corona Park, it not only falls on deaf ears but upon a large group of fools who masquerade as public officials, oblivious to the fact that even during the Great Depression public parkland was considered sacred and inviolate, not for sale or barter.

A case in point and one that would cause Olmstead to have convulsions in his grave, is Flushing Meadows. Since the administration of the late former Borough President Donald Manes through and up to our current Bloomberg administration, FMCP has been up for grabs by all sorts of fat cat real estate and special interests aided and complicit with myopic politicians who have not the vaguest understanding of what urban parks are all about and that once parkland, a non-renewable resource, is given away it is

lost forever.

City residents have every right to be concerned and protest the malfeasance being inflicted on FMCP ("Packed meeting questions Flushing Meadows plans." Flushing Times, Sept. 20-26). It will be recalled that Manes, who disgraced the office of borough president in facing criminal charges, wanted to cut down more than 100 trees and build a grand prix racetrack around Meadow Lake. The plan was endorsed at the time by our current borough president, Helen Marshall, then a public official, as well as others and he wanted to turn the park into a Meadowlands sports complex to be named after himself

Since then, the United States Tennis Association

was given a significant piece of the parkland upon its promise not to seek more land. That promise was as worthless as a dead tennis ball. It sought and was given more land and currently seeks more as well as the right to increase the size of its stadiums, an environmental blight. Mayor Michael Bloomberg's illadvised Willets Point Plan will take some parkland and cause an egregious impact on the park.

On the horizon is the prospect of a private, forprofit soccer stadium withouthearing any expressions of opposition from any public official. It should also be noted that Citi Field, when initially built, was and still is on parkland. The billboards on its current stadium for which it receives substantial income, is an environmental horror. Unlike any other park in this city, the city allows parking for pay on grassland when the USTA and the New York Mets are in play, something that would not be tolerated in any other municipal park.

Manes' dream of a sportsplex in lieu of a muchneeded and used park, may well come to pass, in which case it should be named after him, since the demise of the park would be criminal and celebrate his abysmal term in office. Can anvthing be done to prevent this from happening? The answer is yes. The people of this city and, in particular. Queens must take Olmstead's admonition seriously.

Flushing Meadows be removed from the city's jurisdiction and turned over to a professionally trained park administrator supported with tax dollars and with the specific obligation to exclude all politicians, real estate and special interests from any say in management of the park.

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Residents of this city, wake up if you want to save Flushing Meadows for yourself and generations to come. You must insist that anyone seeking public office be denied your vote unless they support the preservation of the park as a park.

> Benjamin M. Haber Flushing

They should insist

Blame pols, not rich, for tax rate

ver since Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney released his tax return, the interviewers have been asking him and the media has been questioning: Is the tax rate paid by the rich fair?

The media's implication, reinforced by the current administration's sound bites, is that it is the fault of the rich that they pay a lower tax rate and that they should be blamed for not paying their fair share in relation to the average worker.

Everyone, no matter what their income level, must follow the tax code approved by Congress and signed into law by the president. If you want to blame anyone, you have to look at your elected representatives in Congress. They are the ones who write and approve the tax codes. The voters of this country should not let the media misdirect who really needs to be blamed.

And every time you hear a politician quote a statistic or an alleged fact, listen carefully to hear if they say the source of that information. Of course you will not hear it, so take the time to find out if some or any of what you hear is true.

It may help you decide who to vote for.

Michael Seeley Whitestone

Prune tree for safety of drivers

am writing to request that something be done as soon as possible with regard to the newly installed traffic light on the left side of Parsons Boulevard and the eastbound Long Island Expressway service road.

The problem is the light is completely obscured by several large branches of

the sycamore tree, which is at that corner on that side of Parsons, which would be the left side if you were driving down Parsons to the service road.

Why didn't the city Department of Transportaion see to it that those limbs were pruned away prior to installing the traffic light pole and signal? There must be better coordination between city agencies. If it is the responsibility of the city Parks Department to prune these limbs, then it needs to do so and fast.

Can someone or some agency please look into this problem?

> John Amato Fresh Meadows

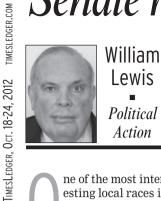
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COLUMNS

Senate race will be hard-fought between Addabbo, Ulrich



ne of the most interesting local races in Queens is occurring in the 15th state Senate District in southwest Queens between incumbent Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) and challenger City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park).

Ulrich is going into this campaign after having won two primaries in the Republican and Independence parties. He now faces Addabbo by running on the Republican, Conservative and Independence lines. Addabbo is running as the Democratic and Working Families party candidate.

Ulrich seems to have some important advantages considering he has strong support from the Republican State Senate Campaign Committee and he has been successful in fund-raising during the last year. In the recent past, Ulrich has been referred to as a rising star in the Queens Republican Party, although he has continually been at odds with the official Queens GOP organization. After serving three years on the Council, he is now running for the Senate.

His opponent, Addabbo, has now served two terms in the Senate after winning the seat from Republican Serf Maltese in 2008. Addabbo also has an interesting political background, aside from serving almost two terms in the Council before running for the Senate. He has mentioned experience as one of the main issues of the campaign from the standpoint that he has served in elected office for 10 years, while his opponent has served only three.

As we look more closely at the recently concluded primaries, 32 percent of Republicans who voted in their primary voted against Ulrich and for his opponent, Juan Reyes. The question is how these Republicans will vote in the general election: Will they vote for Ulrich or Addabbo or not at all?

As for the all-important Independence line, two years ago Addabbo ran with the Independence endorsement and got approximately 3,000 votes on that line. Now that Ulrich has the Independence line, how will those 3,000 Independents vote? Will they vote for Ulrich or continue voting for Addabbo, as they did two years ago?

Most political observers see Ulrich as a strong challenger to Addabbo, but regarding the Republican and Independence lines there are potential weaknesses in Ulrich's support.

In addition, the Addabbo family has long been active in local politics. Addabbo's late father was a congressman representing much of the area in the contested district. He served for 26 years and many families who have lived in that area, especially senior citizens, remember Addabbo's father well with his emphasis on constituent services.

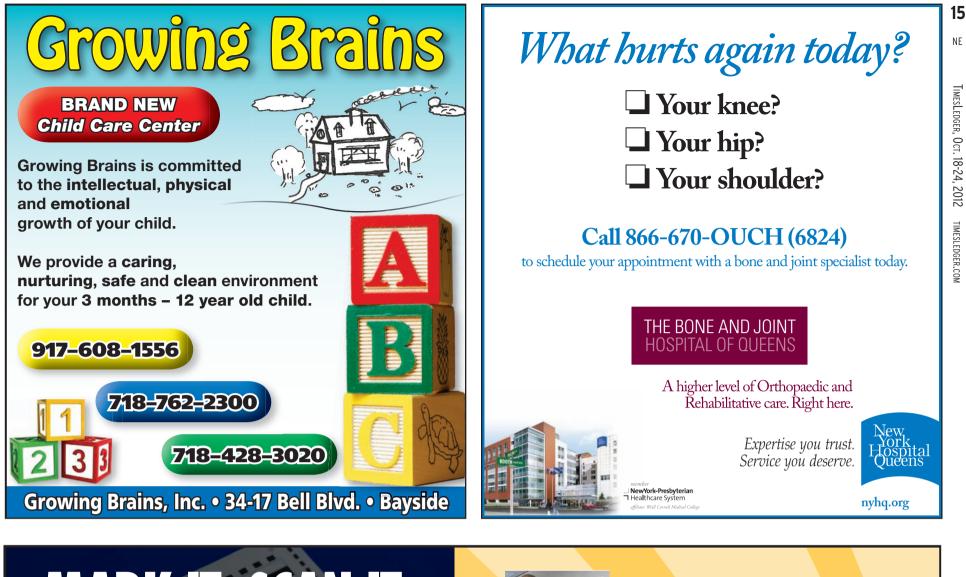
Addabbo believes his most important contribution to the Senate was when he first arrived in Albany in 2009 and was faced with a \$17 billion budget, one of the largest in state history. He worked to help reduce the budget by \$6 million. He serves on the Senate Education and Veterans committees. He believes continually improving education serves to keep people living in the community and not moving out.

Job creation is one of Addabbo's highest priorities. He has encouraged job fairs. Following his father's emphasis on constituent services, he has a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week hotline in which the people of his district can call in to his office about any problem they have in which the state Senate office can help.

"The great opportunity of waking up every day and helping people, for that I am thankful," Addabbo said, about providing services for the people of his district.

It is turning out to be a rough contest between the highly motivated office holders. In the case of Addabbo, as indicated, he has served 10 years in office in the Council and Senate. As shown by the last two races in the 15th District, he has strong support in the district. He will make every effort to continue having that support this year.









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General Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

¹⁶ Kim hopes to win Senate seat focusing on economy

BY JOE ANUTA

Republican candidate J.D. Kim hopes to open up the buzzing economy of Flushing to the surrounding communities if he defeats incumbent state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) for a Senate seat in November.

According to campaign filings from early October, Kim is severely out-funded in the race. Between July and October, he raised about \$7,500 with about \$2,000 remaining in his coffers compared to Stavisky, who raised less than \$2,000 over the same period but still has a balance of \$36,000.

Kim held a fund-raiser last Thursday to try and make up some of the difference in the race, the winner of which will represent parts of Flushing, Forest Hills, Rego Park Elmhurst, Fresh Meadows and Oakland Gardens.

"My motto is 'Dedication without equal," he told a crowd of about 50 who gathered in the banquet hall of Kum Gang San, at 138-28 Northern Blvd. "I'm a servant.



Republican lawyer J.D. Kim (I.) is taking on Democratic incumbent state Sen. Toby Stavisky for her Senate seat. Photos courtesy Kim and by Christina Santucci

I know how to work hard."

Kim insists his wife, Young, is the one with charisma, and that he is just a mild-mannered litigation lawyer who has his own firm, a Sunday school teacher at his church and someone who knows how to roll up his sleeves, he said at the event.

Kim hopes to be a liaison between Korean and Chinese

small businesses in Flushing and the surrounding areas, and cited studies like a 2011 report from state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli that shows Flushing far outpaces the rest of the city in economic growth, adding new businesses at a 30 percent higher rate than the other four boroughs between 2000 to 2009.

As a Republican, Kim said

he believes there is a lot of work to be done on the economy before adding more legislation and regulation to the state. He did not discuss any specific bills when asked by a reporter, but did support the issue of English language signs to integrate the businesses in Flushing with other areas.

"I see the economy as the real solution," he said, adding that small businesses are subject to too many fines and regulations.

On social issues, Kim thinks marriage should only be between a man and a woman, but stressed that he has represented gay clients who were discriminated against. On abortion rights, Kim said he is pro-choice during an interview after the event. He also said he is in favor of charter schools.

Kim, who is Korean American, often refers to his style of political maneuvering as unconventional.

During the Democratic primary for the seat, he wrote an open letter saying he respected Stavisky.

Elections

2012

And during a candidate forum between the Democratic senator and her primary challenger, Oakland Gardens lawyer John Messer, he repeated his respect for Stavisky and told Messer to "keep up the good work."

Several other GOPers attended his fund-raiser.

including Abe Fuchs, who is taking on Democrat Nily Rozic in a northeast Queens state Assembly race, and Phil

Gim, who is up against Democrat Ron Kim in the Flushing Assembly race. After Gim had left the fund-raiser, Kim announced his hope that Gim's opponent, a Korean American, would win.

Referring to Gim, he said, "Remember him. Please vote for him when there is not a Korean on the other side."

Kim is endorsed by the Queens County Republican Party and Israeli human rights attorney Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, according to his campaign.



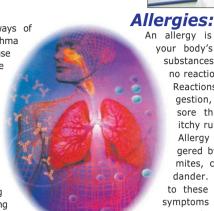
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Green group seeks end to Little Bay dumping

BY PHIL CORSO

A Long Island-based advocacy group has appealed a state consent order that would allow more nitrogen dumping into the Long Island Sound, which connects to Little Bay in Little Neck, with potential to kill underwater wildlife and affect the surrounding ecosystem.

Save the Sound, a program of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, has filed an appeal with State Supreme Court in Nassau County against a state Department of Environmental Conservation consent order that allows the sewage district in Great Neck, L.I., to increase nitrogen dumping into Long Island Sound.

The consent order, which the state DEC signed with the treatment plant operators in May, would allow the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District



Save the Sound of Long Island is appealing a state consent order with hopes of curbing the amount of nitrogen being dumped into the Long Island Sound. Photo by Christina Santucci

to increase its nitrogen dumping limit into the water from the current 238 pounds each day to 653.

"NYSDEC's decision to let Great Neck Water Pollution Control District increase its nitrogen discharge runs counter to the Clean Water Act and hurts the health of Long Island Sound," said Leah Schmalz, director of legislative and legal affairs for Save the

Sound. The state DEC and Great Neck Water Pollution

Control District did not

return calls seeking com-

According to Schmalz,

the dumping of nitrogen contributes to hypoxia or low levels of oxygen underwater — in Long Island Sound. Oxygen depletion forces fish to find healthier waters in order to live, threatening both the lives of aquatic and land animals in the ecosystem. The water near the Great Neck dumping site connects to Little Bay, which touches coastlines in Little Neck and other parts of northern Queens.

"This past summer, we witnessed some of the worst hypoxic conditions since the region started measuring hypoxia in 1991. Portions of western Long Island Sound flanked by Long Island and Westchester contained almost no oxygen," Schmalz said. "We are fast approaching the 2014 deadline to clean up this dead zone, and the practice of relaxing sewage treatment plant nitrogen limits will not get us there."

Save the Sound's appeal is asking the state to prevent DEC from modifying Great Neck's pollution limits both now and in 2014. when the deadline arrives to clean up the Long Island Sound in accordance with the Clean Water Act. By 2014, 58.5 percent of the nitrogen the region dumps into the sound daily must be removed, according to the law.

"To have any hope of restoring the sound's waters under the legally mandated timeline, NYS-DEC must enforce the Total Maximum Daily Load, not give laggards a pass," Schmalz said. "We look forward to working with NYSDEC, Great Neck and other similarly situated communities to advocate for the necessary funding to upgrade sewage treatment plants and to ensure the sound is protected for generations to come."

The Right Candidate For These Times

ment.



r. Fuchs has been mostly a Queens resident since 1971 when he came from Wash. D.C., to attend Mesivta of Forest Hills, a Jewish religious high school and proceeded to attend Seminary for 3 years thereafter. He then attended Empire State College, part of SUNY.

More interested in working however, he took advantage of bookkeeping training offered by the city of NY and worked for a number of years as a billing clerk in a private company and then for Downstate Medical Center.

In 1984 he started his career with the U.S Postal Service and retired by 2009. Mr. Fuchs has also been a real estate investor since 1989 and has improved neighborhoods by renovating 6 properties.

In retirement, he became active with local political clubs and promoting the candidacies of others. Abe has 3 siblings, 11 nephews and nieces and many more grand nephews and nieces and takes delight in being a

part of their lives.

Mr. Fuchs would like to foster more communication between the two political parties and thus promote positive ideas to reduce waste in government and legislate a tax structure that would promote growth in the economy. Most importantly, he wants to facilitate quality education for our children

To quote from Condoleezza's speech to the RNC on 8/29/12: "The crisis in K-12 education is a threat to the very fabric of who we are. My mom was a teacher. I respect the profession. We need great teachers not poor ones and not mediocre ones. We have to have high standards for our kids because self esteem comes from achievements - not from lax standards and false praise and we need to give parents greater choice particularly poor parents whose kids, very often minorities, are trapped in failing neighborhood schools. This is the civil rights issue of our

day."According to the census bureau, in NY state, the cost to educate a student in Public School is \$18,000 per year. Private school can do it for a lot less.

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Carts

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Continued from page 1

causing problems for both her and management at the CVS.

"This has been a major problem throughout the entire city," CB 11 Chairman Jerry Iannece said after Tinari brought her concerns to the board's October meeting in Bayside. "No law stops them. We need more regulation because they unfairly compete with the other merchants."

John Amanatidis has been grilling lunch and dinner for passers-by from his foot cart near the intersection of Northern and Bell boulevards for close to 15 years and said he has heard, understood and agreed with Tinari's concerns. In an effort to combat cars from illegally parking near his cart, Amanatidis created a sign with bold print and fixed it to the front of his food truck, warning customers that anyone caught illegally parking will be towed.



Bayside food cart owner John Amanatidis shows his makeshift sign, warning customers not to illegally park while purchasing his food. Photo by Phil Corso

"She's right," Amanatidis said. "But we can only do so much."

Tinarisaid shereached out to the 111th Precinct in Bayside, but was told it was the landlord's duty to tow the vehicles on the private property. The problem with providing a tow truck, she said, is the short amount of time drivers would stay while illegally parking their cars to purchase food from the trucks.

"People only obey when they physically see the truck," Tinari said. "And we can't tow if somebody is in the car, even if they stay long enough."

CB 11 officials said they would continue to seek governmental assistance in regulating the food carts and assessing their impact on the community. Meanwhile, Tinari said she would do her best to keep her parking lot open to shoppers.

"[Food cart owners] say they have their rights. Where are our rights?" Tinari said. "If it keeps going like this, customers won't want to shop here anymore."

Synagogues

Continued from page 2

On Sunday it was unclear who was from which faction, as the food poured out in waves from the double doors of the kitchen and children snatched appetizers off platters.

According to the rabbi,

3 Brothers

Continued from page 2

wald opened the market in 1967, but his son-in-law Steve Celt eventually sold the business in 2004, citing what he said at the time was a changing generation and demographic along Bell Boulevard.

"There's not many left that were here from the merger has created "a renaissance of Jewish life in northeast Queens," and as an example he touted a standing-room-only crowd for the high holidays. For Stern, the reaf-

For Stern, the reatfirmation of the congregation's choice to move came when he received positive feedback from the oldest members, who had been attending since the 1960s.

the beginning," Celt told

TimesLedger Newspapers

of Bell Boulevard in 2004.

"It's a different genera-

could be seen just one block

away from Three Brothers,

where ongoing construc-

tion work has taken place

at 41-08 Bell Blvd., next to

Martha's Country Bakery,

where workers at the site

said a Chinese buffet was

Storefront turnaround

tion."

being built.

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gogues."

Further down Bell Boulevard, Pace's Hair Design, at 40-02 Bell Blvd., announced it would be closing its doors for good, making way for a Yogurtland franchise store within the next few months.

"I can't imagine there

Reach reporter Joe

will not be future consoli-

dations over time," Stern

said. "The area just won't

support as many syna-

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Apathy

Continued from page 1

William Lewis contended that Iannece's loss came as a result of apathetic voters throughout the 25th Assembly District, which stretches from Flushing to Douglaston and includes most of Bayside Hills, where Iannece lives.

"This year we had three sets of primary elections, so registered voters got tired of it," Lewis wrote in his column. "A significant number of them did not want to come out a third time. Many of those who did not show up at the polls were Iannece supporters."

Nevertheless, a TimesLedger check of turnout for recent elections in the same Assembly district showed that voting was higher in the September 2012 primary than the most recent primary election to date.

Iannece, 53, also said he expected a higher turnout from his base and thought voter fatigue may have contributed to his primary loss.

"People said they were going to come out, but at the end of the day, they just stayed home," Iannece said, adding that matters were not made any easier by Sept. 11 falling on Tuesday, forcing the special Thursday primary after a series of previous primaries the same year. "I was not taking anything for granted. I knocked on over 5,000 doors and when you have a voting block five times the size of the number that came out, it's sad."

Rozic, 26, said she achieved her primary victory and opportunity to run as a Democrat for the seat currently held by Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) by making sure she was accessible to voters in the district.

"While campaigning, I spoke to thousands of voters and my message reso-



Jerry lannece hands out fliers outside PS 31 in Bayside to attract voters to the polls in the Sept. 13 primary election.

nated across the district," Rozic said. "I'm looking forward to the general election on Nov. 6 and representing our community."

There are 53,761 enrolled voters in the 25th Assembly District, according to the BOE, with 31,457 active enrolled Democrats.

In September, a total of 3,994 voters cast their votes in the Iannece-Rozic Democratic primary, with 2,245 votes going to Rozic, according to the BOE's official results. That number exceeded that of the most recent primary to take place in the same Assembly district. In the Sept. 16, 2006, primary for the Democratic Party, 3,229 voters hit the polls, with 2,458 of them supporting Lancman, according to the BOE.

As for general elections, BOE results showed the most votes for the 25th Assembly District came Nov. 4, 2008, when 14,916 ballots were recorded in the race in which Lancman retained his seat. Two years later, on Nov. 2, 2010, 11,721 total votes were recorded in the next general election.

Nonetheless, Iannece supporters, including those at the civic association he was once president of, have looked within to make sense of their candidate's loss.

After the election, Bayside Hills Civic Association Vice President Armando Cortino released a letter to its members asking, "Where were you?" on Primary Day.

"It was as plain as day why voters should have noticed that Jerry Iannece deserved to be elected, yet they chose not to come out in droves to the voting booths," said Michael Feiner, BHCA president. "The turnout was dismally low. To me, that's apathy."

But regardless of the reasons why he did not win, Iannece said he hoped a brighter message would survive in civic leaders who may have followed the race.

"I hope the would-be civic leaders out there do not get dissuaded to run for public office," Iannece said, speaking of his more than 20 years of civic experience not being enough for voters to get him on the Democratic ticket. "That is when you are going to get real change in government."



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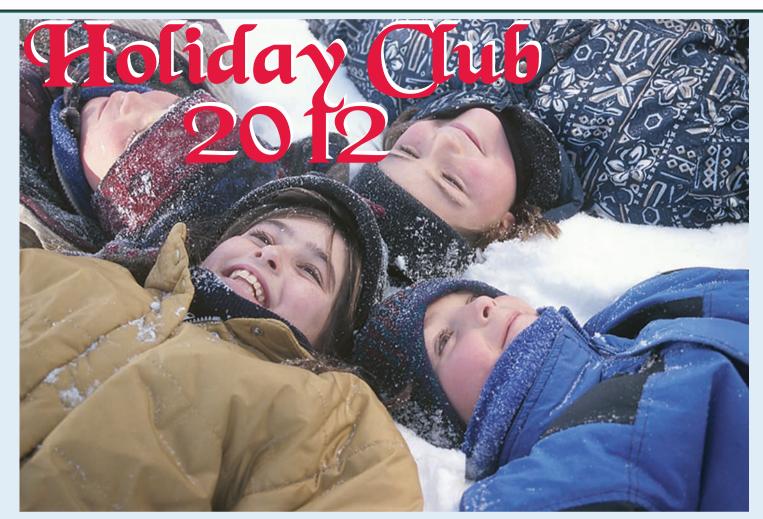
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Qns Village native wins share of Nobel prize in economics

BY STEVE MOSCO

Economist Alvin Roth, a Queens native who currently works as a professor at Stanford University, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

Buren High School in Queens Village,

received the honor Monday for work that the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences cited as "the theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design."

According to the academy, the award "honors work that provided a deeper understanding of how markets work and put that knowledge to use for the practical benefit of human-

PC



Roth, who at- Queens Village native Alvin Roth (I.) addresses the tended Martin Van media after winning the Nobel Prize in economics. Photo courtesy Stanford University economics and in

ity."

Roth received the prize for devising better match-ups among students and the schools they wish to attend and between kidney donors and recipients. Roth is credited with implementing concrete uses for the match-making theories of UCLA Professor Lloyd Shapley, with whom the economist will share the

\$1.2 million prize. Roth, the Mc-Caw Senior Visiting Professor of Economics at Stanford and a Stanford alumnus who will become a full faculty member at the start of 2013, is a pioneer in the field of game theory and experimental their application in

the design of new economic institutions.

Stanford University Provost John Etchemendy, who described Roth's recent arrival at Stanford as "fortuitous," praised the economist as not only "an extraordinary researcher and teacher, admired worldwide by other economists" but also "a heck of a nice human being."

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THE RIGHT CARE NOW



CB 11 honors dentists who back local drug program for children

BY PHIL CORSO

Leaders on Community Board 11 recognized four borough dentists for supporting a Bayside-based free drug education program for city children.

At the Fialkoff Dental Study Club's monthly meeting, held Oct. 7 in Bayside, CB 11 District Manager Susan Seinfeld and city board Health Committee Chairwoman Eileen Miller presented glass plaques to those who supported Dr. Bernard Fialkoff's Foundation for a Drug Free World program, which provides drug education to schools throughout New York City.

"I care about what is happening to our community and to our country," said Fialkoff, a Bayside dentist. "It is up to us doctors to do something about the conditions that surround us."

Drs. Daniel Weinstein and Elie Marzouk, Long



Eileen Miller, of Community Board 11 (l.), joins with CB 11 District Manager Susan Seinfeld (second from r.) in honoring borough dentists for their efforts to curb drug abuse for children.

Island City dentists, joined with Howard Beach's Dr. Hanette Gomez and Flushing's Dr. Edward Portnoy in front of 65 other dentists to thank them for their involvement in community activities and service.

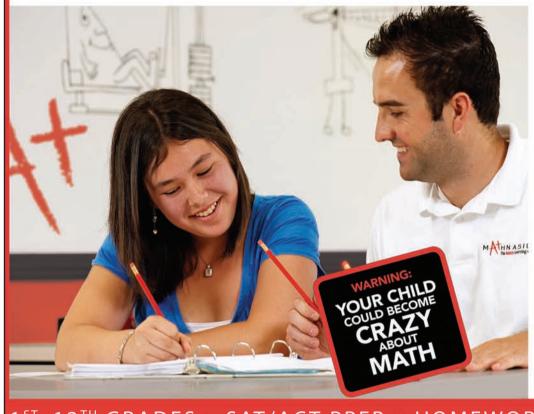
Fialkoff's program offers free presentations to schools and after-school programs throughout the city and has conducted more than 80 free drug education events at schools, including JHS 190 in Forest Photo courtesy Bernard Fialkoff Hills and after-school programs in the borough. The five dentists being honored all donated to Fialkoff's program in its early stages of development.

"It starts with one dentist deciding to improve his neighborhood and then expands to a city," Fialkoff said. "This is why we are acknowledging Dr. Weinstein, Dr. Marzouk, Dr. Portnoy and Dr. Gomez tonight for their tremendous efforts in this good cause."



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MTA wants transit riders to give input on fare hikes

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The MTA has released a series of proposals to help decide what the coming fare increase will be like, including one suggestion that would raise the cost of a 30-day MetroCard to \$125.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Joseph Lhota emphasized at a news conference Monday that all four of the proposals are far from official acceptance and subject to straphangers' examination and comment.

"We need to hear from the public," Lhota said. "The public will have significant input into our decision-making process. In the spirit of transparency, the public will assist in shaping our fare policy."

Much of the discussion will take place at eight public hearings in November, including one at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, at 135-20 39th Ave. in Flushing, Nov. 15.

Members of the public are encouraged to send written comments via the MTA website or register to speak at public hearings by calling 718-521-3333 between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. Also for the first time, citizens who wish to record a videotaped comment can visit MTA offices at 3 Stone St. in Manhattan for that purpose.

The final decision will be made in a vote by the MTA board Dec. 19. The fares and tolls would become effective in early March 2013.

Lhota also said he had lately reversed direction on whether the MTA should abolish MetroCard bonuses.

"I have heard the public loud and clear," Lhota said. "I've come to the opinion that riders really like the discount," adding that he planned to recommend keeping the discounts to



The MTA has introduced four fare hike proposals.

the MTA board.

One of the four plans hikes the monthly Metro-Card to \$109 from \$104. Another raises the 30-day MetroCard by \$21 to \$125.

Two of the plans preserve the \$2.25 basic fare while the other two increase it to \$2.50.

All of the plans authorize a \$1 fee for each new MetroCard. If you keep your old MetroCard, there is no fee.

Turning to the MTA's edge-of-the-abyss finances, Lhota said that despite the millions saved by a massive MTA cost-cutting campaign, the agency still faces spiraling costs for debt burdens, pensions and health care programs.

"We are grappling with long-term measures to reduce these frustrating and difficult non-discretionary expenses, but today they are the drivers of the need for a fare and toll increase," he said.

In any case, the MTA says it must raise \$450 million in new revenue from the proposed increases.

The MTA said several questions are meant to promote discussion about the base fare and transit discount:

Should the base fare remain unchanged?
Should discounts be

continued or reduced?Should the increase

be across the board among all kinds of fares?

• Who should be affected: non-discount or discount users?

• The MTA said that among considerations, who should be affected: non-discount or discount users?

The MTA said that although the basic fare now is \$2.25, only 15 percent of trips are paid for at that level. Discounted fares account for 85 percent of trips.

Fare hikes ranging from 8.2 percent to 9.3 percent are also in store for the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad.

Motorists will pay 50 cents to \$1 more at MTA bridges and tunnels, except for the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, where the toll with go up by \$2.

Gene Russianoff, attorney for the transit advocacy agency Straphangers Campaign, said, "I think the riders are pretty well ticked off at this ... we have got to get more financial help from Albany and City Hall."

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by email at timesledgernews@ cnglocal.com or phone at 718-260-4536.

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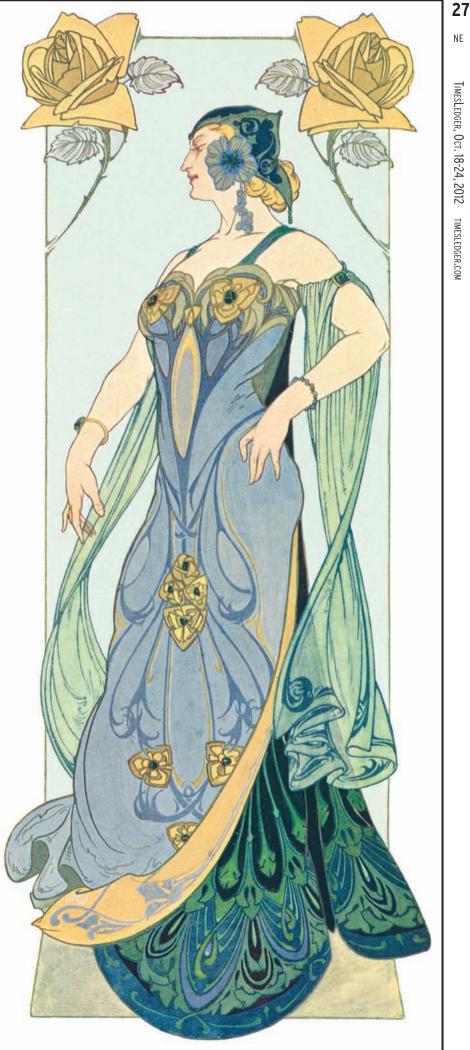
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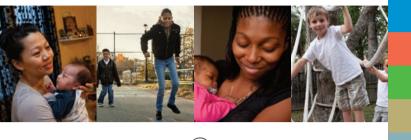
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Center for Women of New York to host 25th annual job summit

BY PHIL CORSO

The Center for the Women of New York will host its 25th annual World of Working Women conference later this month, with a star-studded panel and lineup of guest speakers.

The conference, scheduled for Oct. 26 at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel in Flushing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be hosted by the master of ceremonies, former CWNY President Barbara Scheiner and includes a panel of guest speakers, moderated by TimesLedger Newspapers Editor Roz Liston. It is co-sponsored each year by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and TimesLedger.

There will be a job fair from noon to 3 p.m. with employers from the private and public sectors.

Kicking off the speakers portion of the morning in the hotel's Phoenix Terrace, at 135-20 39th Ave., will be CWNY President Susan Salzberg and CWNY Founder and Chairwoman Ann Jawin, Speaking at the conference will be state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside), who received a "Good Guy Award" from the organization earlier this year, and Victoria Schneps, publisher of the Queens Courier.

The panel, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. and run until 11:30 a.m., includes former state Assemblywoman Ann-Margaret Carrozza, Director of Public Affairs for Community and Government Relations for Consolidated Edison Carol Conslato, Reddy-Care Physical Therapy Manager Patrick Flynn, United Federation of Teachers Director Sasha Greene, Department of Labor Program Analyst Gillian Gutierrez, Delta Air Lines Community Relations Director Cassandra Hill and Outten & Golden Law Firm attorney Amber Trzinksy.

Since the center's founding in October 1987, the group has worked with the Queens community to act as a one-stop, walk-in resource for women, with services ranging from legal clinics and job clubs to support groups.

"There's so much to offer when so many leaders come together," Jawin said. "We've come a long way as a group and I'm so happy to say that a large number of our founders are still with us today."

Various speakers will give workshops from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., including *Continued on Page 40*



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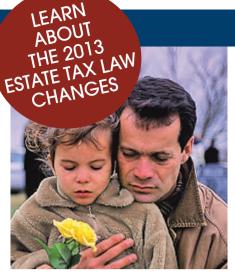
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Queens Law Firm Reveals 3 Major Mistakes That Could Cost Your Family Everything!

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BY MICHAEL DAVIDOV AND ILANA DAVIDOV DAVIDOV LAW GROUP

The funeral is only the start of your family's problems. Even though you've worked hard your entire life and saved up something you'd like to pass on to your family, they may end up with nothing. You can spare your family a second round of grief. Keep reading and we'll share just 3 critical reasons your family may be facing difficulties.

Our names are Michael Davidov and Ilana Davidov, and we have reviewed countless wills and trusts here in New York. Recent legal trends cause us great concern. In this article, we'd like to highlight just some of the issues which may affect your family.

Risk #1 - Lost in Probate Court

Chances are high your estate is going to wind up in probate court. In probate court they decide if your will is valid, try to settle disputes, distribute your assets to your heirs, and settle any outstanding issues. Probate court is a very lengthy process and it may take several years until your will clears probate.

Another problem is everything about your will is in the public record so virtually anyone has access to every single detail of your finances.

Finally, your heirs don't get their share of your estate until Uncle Sam and the lawyers get their share which can be very expensive. For example, in New York, assets over 1 million may be taxed as high as 16%.

But there is a way to pass on your entire estate regardless of its sizeto your loved ones while legally avoiding probate and minimizing or eliminating New York and Federal Estate Taxes. We'll show you how to do this at an upcoming free seminar.

Risk #2 - Not Protecting Yourself or Your Estate

You've worked hard your entire life and you'd like to pass on your estate to your loved ones. But unless you quickly take action, there may be nothing left for your family.

Statistics reveal you are six times more likely to become disabled before you die. The US Government Census Bureau expects the disability rate to double in the next decade.

Yet most people plan their wills for what will take place after their death. This is a serious mistake.

Very frequently we see plans people have made for their heirs become undone because of the need for long term nursing care. This year the national average for a nursing home stay is almost \$84,000 per year, while the average nursing home stay in NYC is \$131,000 per year. It's been reported that more than 500,000 seniors a year go broke because of these long-term care costs.

Before Medicaid picks up a dime, your assets may be exhausted. You may die and leave nothing to your heirs.

Risk #3 - Not Protecting Your Family

Most people fear once they're gone their spouse and kids will be taken advantage of by creditors, lawsuits or divorce or squander the estate with foolish financial decisions. Most wills and trusts we've examined do nothing to protect against these risks.

Many wills and trusts give your assets outright to your heirs when you and your spouse are gone. This is a huge mistake. If one of your goals in establishing a trust was to protect your family, your work may have been in vain.

There are three principal issues of concern with regard to protecting your family.

Skyrocketing Divorce Rate

With the divorce rate hovering at 50%, you cannot afford to ignore another very real danger. In New York, a divorcing spouse can walk away with 50% of your assets if things are not properly handled. You worked your entire life to build up a nest egg and planned carefully to make sure it was transferred into the right hands. You don't want a sizeable chunk of it to end up in the "soon to be ex" in-law.

Irresponsible Behavior

Sometimes protecting your family means protecting individual members from their own irresponsible behavior. Perhaps there is a young person in your family who has not fully matured yet and may take the money you saved and squander it in one afternoon. There are simple ways around this problem we will detail at our free seminar.

Special Needs Relatives

If you have a child or grandchild with special needs and this child inherits wealth from your estate–all of the government benefits will stop immediately. Your gift may cause them a double problem–first the loss of services, and then when their money rapidly runs out, the inability to arrange for a resumption of government services. We'll show you how you can look after your special needs family member even after you are gone.

Free Seminar reveals a Better Way

If you are concerned about making sure the money you've earned goes to your loved ones without going through probate you owe it to yourself to attend our upcoming Free Legacy Wealth Planning Seminar.

At this seminar, we'll highlight some of the most common risks you'll want to consider and show you how to protect yourself and your family.

Here's What You'll Discover

We'd like to invite you to join me at an upcoming Legacy Wealth Planning presentation. In this seminar, you'll find out what a "barebones" estate plan is and how dangerous it can be for your family.

The most common remark we hear after these seminars is that most people are amazed at how exposed their family was. Some people might even be a little angry their planner didn't advise them of many of these issues.

The good news is that it's not too late to fix the problem and get the real peace of mind you deserve. $$$^{\odot}AAEPA$$

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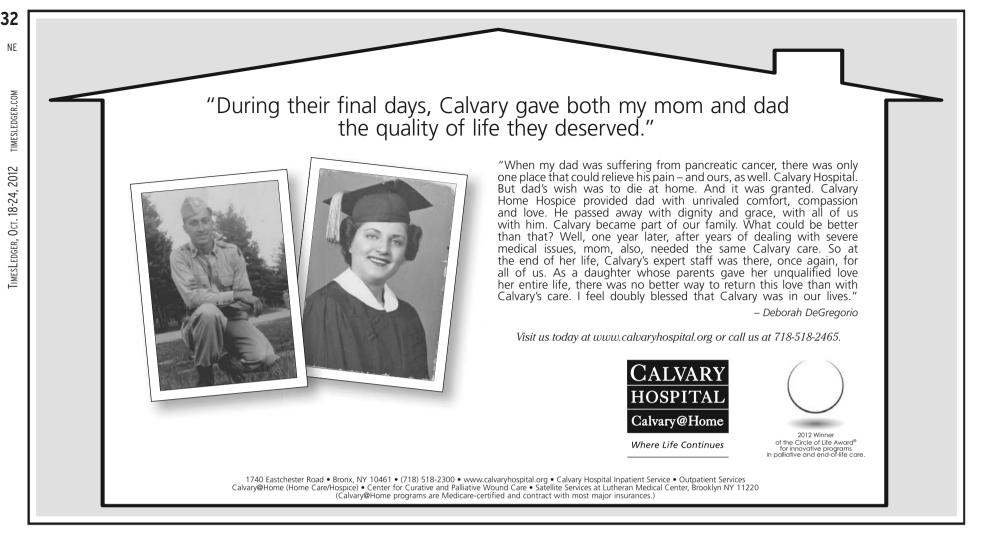


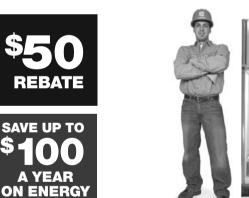


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City Tech Open House Scheduled for October 28, 1 p.m.

Brooklyn, NY -- October 10, 2012 -- New York City College of Technology's (City Tech's) Fall 2012 Open House for prospective students and their families will be held on Sunday, October 28, from 1 to 4 p.m., in the Klitgord Center Auditorium, 285 Jay Street (at Tillary), Downtown Brooklyn.

The open house will feature campus tours and a chance to meet faculty, students and staff. Participants will learn all about admissions, financial aid and the College's full range of student support services. All prospective students, including high school seniors or graduates, transfer students, and returning adults and their families are welcome.

The college of technology of The City University of New York (CUNY), City Tech is the largest such public college in the Northeast. Sixty-two degree and specialized certificate programs and an outstanding faculty prepare students for careers in rapidly growing 21st century technologies and related fields.

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For travel instructions and other information, call **877-NYC-TECH** or visit: **www.citytech.cuny.edu/OpenHouse**.

Police stop online boro drug sellers

BY PHIL CORSO

An undercover New York Police Department investigation led to the indictment and arrest of 21 people, including four from Queens, on charges they sold prescription drugs and narcotics through Craigslist, officials said.

According to Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan and NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly, undercover cops made a total of 63 drug purchases for more than \$29,400 during an 11-month investigation. They spent about \$19,000 that netted more than 1.000 pills, including Xanax and Vicodin, and \$10,400 on cocaine, the two said. The case, dubbed by the NYPD's Manhattan South Narcotics team as Operation Dot Com, zoned in on independent drug dealers who found their business on the online ad

website Craigslist.

Of the 21 arrests, made mostly over the past month throughout the city and New Jersey, Brennan said four defendants were residents of Queens. Those arrested included Eiyal Hillel, 39, of Kew Gardens Hills; Omar Dyer, 31, of Oakland Gardens; Ronald Bolanos, 42, of Flushing; and Lucy Ayoub, 27, of Astoria, he said.

According to officials, Ayoub sold Adderall pills to an undercover cop. She and her boyfriend Bolanos were arrested Sept. 19 on charges of later selling 100 grams of cocaine to an undercover officer for \$4,000, Brennan said.

"Whether the drug deal occurs on the street corner or on the Internet, it's a crime," Brennan said. "It is illegal to sell prescription drugs whatever the source — the black market or pills originally prescribed to you."

The defendants, Brennan said, ranged in age from 22 to 62 and came from different occupations, including student, teacher's aide to celebrity photographer and Internet entrepreneur. The accused, Brennan said, posted ads on Craigslist offering study aids or pain relief.

"Friendly Nyu student who can offer pain relief and anxiety relief," Brennan said one of the ads read. "Easy, non-sketchy, straightforward meeting."

Brennan said half of the defendants arrested were selling either Adderall, which treats attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or Xanax, used to treat anxiety. The number of the two prescriptions being filled throughout the city has soared over the past five years, making the drug more readily available, Brennan said. "There's an epidemic of prescription drug addiction and abuse in New York that is ruining lives and producing violent crime, including drugstore robberies in which gunmen have demanded their drug of choice by name," Kelly said.

According to Brennan, two of the 21 arrests have already led to indictments. Both former city teacher's aide Mariel Javier, 25, and Internet entrepreneur Jennifer Sultan, 38, of Manhattan, were indicted after their arrests in December 2011, police said.

"Clearly, there is an overabundance of prescription drugs and opportunists looking to profit from their access to them," Brennan said. "As a result, we are battling escalating rates of addiction and overdose deaths."





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TimesLedger, Oct. 18-24, 2012

TIMESLEDGER.COM

³⁴ Maspeth shop to honor firemen lost in 1962 blaze

BY STEVE MOSCO

TIMESLEDGER.COM

TimesLedger, Oct. 18-24, 2012

The 1960s were a decade of transition — the political landscape shifted dramatically with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, The Beatles took everyone on a magical mystery tour and the Cuban missile crisis led many to gravely prepare for the end of the world.

On Oct. 26, 1962, just as Kennedy was receiving word of a compromise from the Soviet Union to end the crisis, six firefighters with the FDNY were starting their shifts as they had numerous times before. They said goodbye to loved ones and left to serve the city.

Capt. William Russell with Engine 325 in Woodside dropped his two sons off at a barbershop in Wantagh, L.I. One of his sons, Peter Russell, recalled saying goodbye and telling his father he would see him tomorrow. "Unfortunately, we never did see him again," he said.

Russell's father was one of six firefighters who died that night battling a blaze at Sefu Soap and Fat Co., at 44-15 56th Road in Maspeth, when a brick wall came crashing down on them.

Killed in the line of duty that night with Russell, 43, were Firefighters Richard Andrews, 25, of Jamaica; James Marino, 29, of Corona; Richard Gifford, 24, of Bellerose; George Zahn, 25, of Jackson Heights; and Francis Egan, 29, of Merrick, L.I.

That weekend, the missile crisis dominated the headlines. Aside from front page stories in the local daily papers, the loss of six of the city's Bravest was relegated to sidebars, snippets and news briefs.

Fast-forward close to five decades after that night. Marc Eberle, general



Owners of VIP Auto Body in Maspeth will place this plaque on their grounds Oct. 26. Photo courtesy Marc Eberle

manager of VIP Auto Body, which stands on the same piece of land where the fire burned, was beginning renovations with the shop's owner, Peter Keane.

First, they found charred wood, then further excavations revealed a long-abandoned elevator shaft with more debris and evidence of a fire.

"When Peter bought

the building, they told him something had happened here, but we never knew the extent," said Eberle. "We decided to do some research."

A friend of Keane's with the FDNY helped piece together the 50-year-old mystery.

The first firefighters had arrived at the Sefu Soap and Fat Co. at about 9 p.m. — the rendered fat and soap inside the two-story building had created huge flames, thick smoke and intense heat. It was declared a four-alarm blaze and the Bravest got it under control by 10:30 p.m. As crews were working inside of the gutted building, part of the second floor came crashing down, causing a brick wall to collapse on the firefighters.

"Losing six firefighters at once is a major news event, but with the missile crisis these men did not get the acknowledgment they deserved," said Eberle. "We decided that these men deserved some kind of memorial."

So on Oct. 26, 2012, at 1 p.m., 50 years to the day of the Maspeth fire, a memorial service will be held at VIP Auto and a plaque will be placed on the grounds commemorating the six men and their sacrifice.

Many of their surviv-

ing comrades and relatives are expected to attend, including Peter Russell, who said the memories of that night still burn vivid and bright.

"I remember coming downstairs and the living room was filled with firemen." recalled Russell, who was 15 and had to break the news to his younger brother and sisters. "That night I stayed in the TV room, which was next to my parents' room. I could hear my mom crying, I went in and held her in my arms. She asked me what she was going to do now that Dad is gone. That's a big question when you're 15."

Eberle said memorializing the men honors all firefighters who run into burning buildings while everyone else is running out. But more specifically, it is meant to honor the families, the men and the day their world ended in crisis.



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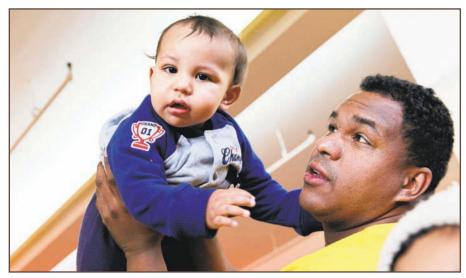
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Oueens residents welcomed the advent of autumn throughout the borough. (Clockwise from top I.) Sheuly Akter sells pumpkins on 160th Street and Jamaica Avenue; Steve Johnson lifts his 14-month-old son Franklin during the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation's harvest festival; Kenneth Ragoonath leads Amaya Ishmael through a maze of hay in Jamaica; Flushing resident Lauren Choi, 7, is adorned with a princess-themed arm band; goodie baskets are raffled off at the Redeemer Lutheran Church's Oktoberfest in Bayside; and Fidia Lafaurie paints Ayjah Marcus' face during Redeemer's festival.

Photos by Christina Santucci





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Business

Habana Hut offers respite for cigar lovers

Lounge and retailer, designed for aficionados, serves as safe haven to Bayside diners and smokers

BY PHIL CORSO

Bell Boulevard has always been known to be bustling with bars and other local hangouts, but there is only one place in Bayside where locals, business people and others can go to fulfill an alternative desire.

Habana Hut, at 214-09 41st Ave., is Bayside's own cigar lounge for anyone and everyone burning for a chance to get comfy while lighting up their favorite top-notch cigar.

Bob Reid, part owner of Habana Hut, said he was glad to be a part of one Bayside business that brings something different to passersby on Bell Boulevard.

"This is a nice, unique place to come where people can avoid all those smoking restrictions," Reid said. "We have a great atmosphere, great conversations and anyone is welcome with open arms."

Inside Habana Hut, the cigar enthusiast would find a wall-to-wall Humidor full of what Reid called top-ofthe-line cigar choices for a range of different prices. Right beside the encased cigars are several couches and chairs that furnish a room full of large flatscreen televisions. Seven days a week from noon to about 1 a.m., Reid said cigar lovers pass through to enjoy a smoke during their favorite sporting events or television shows.

But Habana Hut is a hub for cigar smokers of all sorts, well beyond the occasional lounging customer or sports lover. Reid said cigar lounges serve an even more unique purpose for a specific type of clientele.

"During the daytime, we usually get a lot of the business people who come in after their lunch to hold business meetings or enjoy a nice cigar after lunch breaks," Reid said. "You wouldn't be able to enjoy a



Various selections of high-end cigars line the inside of Habana Hut in Bayside.

cigar after a nice meal anywhere else in Bayside."

The Bayside cigar lounge first opened its doors five years ago and currently operates under three local owners, all of which remain active patrons of their own establishment. Joining Reid in running the cigar lounge are Flushing resident Steve Catalanatto and Valley Stream, L.I., resident Ursala Winter.

Photo by Phil Corso

Habana Hut promotes several different discount deals throughout the year, including a cigar of the week at a discount price and a monthly special that features five cigars for the price of four. And to set it apart from other cigar lounges, Reid also said Habana Hut does not sell any other tobacco products so it could focus all of its attention on offering quality cigars.

"There are never any arguments or negative feelings in there," Reid said. "It is a high-end type of person who smokes cigars and we think we offer a comfortable atmosphere for anyone interested in being a part of it."

For more information, Habana Hut can be reached at 718-423-5059.

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@ cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Get More, Net More with QYP -

Enjoy food, one free drink, raffles and prizes (including FREE airline tickets from Southwest Airlines among others), and networking opportunities with fellow Queens Business Leaders. When: Oct. 23, 6 pm Where: Austin's Ale House, 82-70 Austin St., Kew Gardens

The Power of Email Marketing Seminar – A series of five business seminar will address a different critical issue in employment law. Save the date for fall seminars. When: Oct. 25, 6 pm Where: Flushing Public Library, 41-17 Main St. at Parsons Boulevard, Flushing Contact: (718) 898-8500 Website: queenschamber.org

The Power of Email Marketing Seminar – You can make a connection with the people who need your products and services, inform them by delivering your message in a professional and cost-effective way, and grow your business to reach your lifestyle goals with The Power of Email Marketing. This presentation will cover: Connecting to build customer relationships; Informing people who will buy in to your message and share it with others; Growing your business with engagement marketing with The Power of Email Marketing. This seminar will be presented by Naini Nakagawa, Constant Contact Authorized Local Expert. Register. When: Oct. 25. 6 pm Where: Flushing Public Library,

41-17 Main St. at Parsons

Boulevard, Flushing Contact: (718) 661-1200 Website: gueenslibrary.org

Powerful You! Women's

Network – A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives. When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009 Website: powerfulyou.com

19th Annual Queens Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Walk – Help us raise over \$900,000 so we can provide more services to cancer patients and families. Celebrate a world with less cancer and more birthdays! When: Oct. 21, 8 am Where: Flushing Meadows Corona Park Website: makingstrideswalk. org/queens

Entertainment and Dancing

 RSVP due to limited seating.
 Catered by Frank's Deli from Maspeth.
 When: Oct. 21, 12 pm
 Where: Christ the King High School, 68-02 Metropolitan FUND-RAISERS

Ave., Middle Village **Contact:** (718) 366-7400 **Website:** www.ctkrhs.org

12th Annual Queens Library Foundation Gala – Honoring Dominick Ciampa and Ken Daly. RSVP by Oct. 8. Business attire. Free valet parking. When: Oct. 22, 5:30 pm Where: Water's Edge Restaurant, 4-01 44th Drive, Long Island City Contact: (718) 482-0033 Website: watersedgenyc.com

Annual Walk-a-thon – Selfhelp Community Services will be holding its first Walk-A-Thon to benefit senior citizen programs

and services. Rally with the seniors and support their cause. RSVP. When: Oct. 26, 10 am Where: Kissena Park, Oak Avenue and 163rd Street, Flushing Contact: (718) 559-4367

50th Dinner-Dance – To honor adults who were children in the ANIBIC program. When: Oct. 28 Where: Russo's on the Bay, 162-45 Cross Bay Blvd., Howard Beach Contact: (718) 843-5055 Website: russosonthebay.com

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TIMESLEDGER, OCT. 18-24, 2012

Friends mourn four teens killed in Columbus Day crash on LI

BY RICH BOCKMANN AND KAREN FRANTZ

Families and friends of a South Ozone Park teen, one of four Queens youths killed in a car crash in Long Island on Columbus Day, gathered at S.J. Romanelli Funeral Home at 114-30 Rockaway Blvd. for his service Friday.

Friends described 18-year-old Peter Kanhai as a boy who loved to play basketball and had an on-point jump shot, adored the Boston Celtics and liked pizza and going to eat at Romeo's Pizzeria, at Lefferts and

Women

Continued from Page 28

CWNY board members Anna Tringle and Rhoda Plotkin, as well as city Rockaway boulevards. One friend, Mohammad, 18, said he was friends with Kanhai in middle school. When asked what he would remember about his friend, Mohammad said, "The smile he left behind. It's crazy that under the circumstances he's still got a smile on his face."

Kanhai attended John Adams High School and had started at Queensborough Community College in January.

He and Christopher Khan, 18, Neil Rajapa, 17, and Darian Ramnarine, 18, died instantly after the

Board of Education Training Specialist Victoria Pilotti. Discussions will cover a range of topics, including planning for financial security, starting your own business, getting back into the workforce and other car they were in careened off the Southern State Parkway in Hempstead, L.I., and crashed into some trees early on the morning of Oct. 8., police said. Khan and Rajapa were also from South Ozone Park and Ramnarine was from Jamaica.

The Associated Press reported the crash split the car in half, and the authorities said all the occupants were ejected from the car.

The young driver, 17-year-old Joseph Beer of South Richmond Hill, had a learner's permit but did not have a license, police said.

lectures to provide advice or support for working women.

The conference will close with a "reality" fashion show, courtesy of Fashion Societe founder Cathy Berger.





GET SPORE IN QUEENS THIS

Family fun events around the borough offer tricks and treats in many forms

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

The traditional harvest season signals Halloween is nigh. Once again, it's time to dig out that scary rubber mask and witch's hat or find a great costume on sale.

Steeped in legend, All Hallow's Eve in Queens is never boring. Whether you're a lone witch (or warlock) or part of a coven, there's plenty to do here while spirits and creatures of the night freely roam city streets and gather under the moonlight to rejoice — perhaps in Astoria Park.

Like Halloween, the world seems a scary place these days, so it's kind of reassuring when you spot decorated pumpkins and spooky stuff popping up everywhere: in neighborhood store windows and front yards.

"Halloween is a great time

for families to celebrate fall outdoors. Nothing says fall quite like foliage and pumpkins, and we have both here at the farm," said Queens County Farm Education Coordinator Kristin Allocco. "We're proud to create a family-focused environment, where people can explore nature and celebrate the season so close to home.

"Visitors can pick a pumpkin, take on the challenge of our three-acre corn maze, and hayride through our nature trails every Saturday and Sunday in October." Mulled cider and apples will be sold.

Check out some spooky events happening around the borough:

Halloween Haunted House Queens County Farm Museum 73-50 Little Neck Parkway Floral Park

(718) 347-3276 Oct. 26-28, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This year the museum's haunted house will be bigger and better. It's housed in a new location for new twists and turns, as well as creepy surprises.

The museum's annual Children's Fall Festival will be held on Oct. 28. Kids of all ages are invited to wear Halloween costumes and enjoy live country western music, take pictures with character looka-likes, enjoy a pie-eating contest and race in potato sacks. Admission is \$5 per person.

Halloween Harvest Festival Socrates Sculpture Park 32-01 Vernon Boulevard Long Island City (718) 956-1819 Oct. 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jack and Nellie's: A Forest Hills hint of Europe

BY SUZANNE PARKER

We had been circling, watching attentively for signs of life, ever since their sign went up in midsummer. The sign with simple white all-cap lettering on a black background announcing Jack & Nellie's implied the aesthetic of either a steak joint, or a traditional pub. We were wrong on both counts. Aaarrr, begorra, 'tis a wine bar. A tapas bar. An ooneria. An enoteca. A gastropub. It's all of those things, owned and run by Cyril Burke, a nice Irish boy from County Wicklow.

Jack & Nellie's serves a conglomeration of small plates — some with real heft to them — along with a selection of well-chosen wines and craft brews. The noshes are mostly of Continental provenance and all eminently shareable.

Mr. Burke, by his own admission, does not have a master chef in the kitchen. His genius lies in his expertly sourced artisanal components finished or just plated in his kitchen. The cheeseboard is a perfect example. A choice of

sudoku



A charcuterie platter served at Jack and Nellie's in Forest Hills. Photo by Suzanne Parker

three is offered from a list of artisanal European cheeses mostly cave-aged from raw milks. Try the Amarelo da Beira Baixa, a nameprotected semi-soft raw sheep and goat milk cheese from Portugal, or the Idiazábal is a robust and sharp cheese, from the Basque region of Spain. Top those off with a mild, buttery Fromager d'Affinois, similar to a very rich Brie. All are served with herbed crostini, made of baguettes from La Boulangerie, the wonderful Forest Hills bakery considered by many to make the best baguettes in the city.

The charcuterie board is intense. Duck liver mousse with port wine, wild boar pâté with chestnuts and raisins, Sopressata, Proscuitto and cornichons, pickled onions, wholegrain mustard and fig jam to delight a cured meat lover.

If you're there more to sip than munch but just want a little something, Spicy Marcona Almonds, served warm, are perfect. Known in Spain as "Queen's Almonds", they are softer and sweeter than their California counterparts.

For something more substantial, there's a trio of sliders — grilled Angus beef with bleu cheese, braised beef short ribs with caramelized onions, and fried oyster po'boy with peppered slaw and pickles. The po'boy was the most arresting of the lot, but all were well executed. These just cry out for one of the great craft beers on the list.

Roasted garlic and artichoke dip is luscious but very rich. Be forewarned that if you are ordering other cheesy dishes, this may be over the top. The artichokes will also affect the flavor of the

Continued on Page 45

Jack & Nellie's

108-25 Ascan Ave Forest Hills, New York 11375 718-268-2696 Price Range: Small plates \$4-17 Cuisine: Pan European noshes and nibbles Setting: Small, pubbish. Service: Efficient, professional Hours: From 4 pm daily. brunch on the way soon. **Reservations:** Weekdays only Alcohol: Wine and beer Parking: Street, good luck. Dress: Casual Children: Bar scene, but not unwelcome. Music: Recorded Takeout: Yes Credit cards: The usual Noise level: Noisy Handicap accessible: Yes WIFI: No

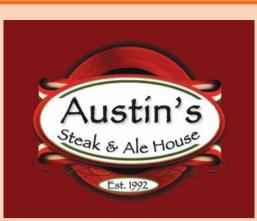
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Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There should be no repeats; which means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

Tips at www.sudoku.com © Puzzles by Pappocom

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The entire park will be activated with a concert and interactive dance performance.

"With over 2,000 visitors expected each year, we always have the challenged of not only bringing together our community in creative ways, but also capturing the essence of multiculturalism that reflects the diversity of our Queens neighborhoods," said Shaun Leonardo, public programs director and coordinator of the event.

"In the past, we've tapped into '80s hip-hop, celebrated Day of the Dead festivities, and even brought back '90s glam rock," he said. "It's all about having an art-filled experience together, amongst the artworks in this one-of-a-kind venue. This year, we're trying to capture our guests' childhood memories of 'The Wizard of Oz,' while introducing young kids to the story's fantastical characters for the first time.

Check out the festival schedule, completer with "Wizard of Oz"-themed events:

• 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Costume-making workshops

 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Harvest-food sale from Long Island City's Breadbox Café, Rockaway's Shore Fruit and The Queens Kickshaw

• 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. -GrowNYC's Halloween Costume Swap

• 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Face painting by Agostio Arts

• 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - Concert by Le nOZze di Carlo

• 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. -Annual Canine Costume Contest with L.I.C.'s Pooches Sport & Spa

• 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. -Featuring "Scarecrows" by Thomas and Guinevere

"Scarecrows" is an installation transposing the history of creative and historically important individuals from Queens into a field of free-standing, larger-than-life sculptures designed in the spirit of scarecrows and erected to protect the creative spirit of the park," Leonardo explained. "As an extension of the installation, Jenny-Anne Mc-Cowan ("Guinevere") will lead a public-participatory performance inspired by both the 'Scarecrows' and "The Wizard of Oz.""

The streets of Queens come more alive than ever on Halloween, said Rob MacKay, director of of public relations, marketing and tourism at the Queens Development Economic Corp. He said his neighbor in Sunnyside always counts the number of visitors she gets on Halloween, "and she got more than 1,000 last year. Our street becomes a virtual parade of witches, Sponge Bobs and princesses for about six hours.

"But my friends from other parts of the borough also brag about their Halloween crowds. I think it's a clear sign our borough of middle-class neighborhoods has many great places to trick-or-treat," he said. "This is further proven by the fact that I have to buy candy weeks in advance, because all the local stores run out."

Here are some Halloween activities that MacKay suggests: "I think the Maple Grove Cemetery scary walk and the Queens Museum of Art Spooktacular are the best," he said.

Strange and Unusual with a Touch of the Paranormal Walking Tour Maple Grove Cemetery 83-15 Kew Gardens Road Kew Gardens (917) 881-3358 Oct. 20

Maple Grove's historian, Carl Ballenas, will share some true tales that should only be told at Halloween. At 3:45 p.m., the children's portion will begin with a 15-minute costume parade. At 4 p.m., there will be expert storytelling, face painting, holiday crafts and lots of carved pumpkins. To participate in the carved pumpkin contest bring your pre-carved pumpkin with a candle inside. Pumpkin drop-off is from 3-5 p.m.; and viewing from 5-6 p.m. Suggested donation \$5.

Boo! An Underwater Halloween Spooktacular Queens Museum of Art New York City Building Flushing Meadows Corona Park (718) 592-9700 Oct. 20, 2-5 p.m.

Zombie surfers, mummy mermaids, artists and guests dive into the deep sea for the third annual Spooktacular, inspired by the current exhibition Caribbean: Crossroads of the World. Consider a shipwreck treasure hunt. a phosphorescent photo booth, sea monster maskmaking, seaweed serenade, starfish Tarot card reading, coral reef candy sculptures and an underwater costumer parade. Admission is \$75 for up to six family members, including two adults and \$35 for one adult and one child. (Includes one-year family membership to museum.)

Halloween Parade, 5 p.m. 37th Ave. from 76th St. through 89th St. Jackson Heights www.discovergueens.info Oct. 31

Dead or Alive Halloween New York Hall of Science 47-01 111th St. Flushing Meadows Corona Park (718) 699-0005 Oct. 26-28

Catapults, bats and robots to celebrate the unholy marriage of science and Halloween. Free with admission. Extra fee for some projects.

Halloween Remixed at Flushing Town Hall 137-35 Northern Blvd. Flushing (718) 445-1920 Oct. 27 and 28

Flushing Town Hall costume party at Oct. 27, 8 p.m. Celebration of Dia de los Muertos, Halloween and All Saints Day with interactive fun for the children at Oct. 28, noon.

Trick or Treat Louis Armstrong House Museum 34-56 107th St. Corona (718) 478-8274 Oct. 27, 1-4 p.m. Free Halloween craft workshop for kids, in the garden. Prizes are awarded for best costumes. Live jazz will be featured in the museum garden.

Adults-only tricks

As the pubcrawls trend gains momentum in Queens, grown-up celebrants get the chance to celebrate Halloween while checking out all the "spirits."

Halloweekend PubCrawl Bayside Oct. 27 and 31

This year in Bayside, all of the planning is being taken care of for you as the producers of the world's biggest pub crawl, PubCrawls, are putting together another massive event during the most popular time of the year to party: Halloween.

PubCrawls has enlisted the help of some of the top bars in the city to host phenomenal drinks specials throughout the day. This is the perfect chance for you to visit some of the best bars in town and meet new friends while you're at it. Get ready to don your best Halloween costume.

Safari Beach Club, 40-21 Bell Blvd. in Bayside, will be handling registration for the Bayside Pub-Crawl. Order tickets in advance online at pubcrawls. com. Tickets are \$5. Bring printout when you show up. Admission gives you access to all other participating bars in New York.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE TimesLedger Newspapers Oct. 18-24, 2012 LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS **By Ed Canty** Air Gun Ammo Across 1. Neighbor of China 6. Magazine contents 10. No longer edible 13. Game players take them 14. Fish catcher 16. Sleuth's cry 17. Big name in video rentals 19. Provincetown catch 20. Sun Bowl site 21. Hutch's partner 23. Sty critters 25. Dead center? 26. City area, informally 29. Line at the dentist's office? 67. " far far better 27. Talks on end 32. Gehrig & Costello thing ... ": Dickens 28. Zest 34. Stylish 68. Cunning 29. Claudius's successor 36. Onetime dagger 69. Personal ID's 30. Brawl 37. Substitute for currency 70. Noted Crossword 34. Minute amount Puzzler? 35. Coal, e.g. 39. Bum around 36. And others: Abbr. Down 40. Possess 38. Woman's summer wear 41. Word before bend or 1. Float gently 40. Ages and ages 2. Bring into the firm brace 41. Working on the deck, 3. Utopia 42. Spontaneous remark perhaps 44. Woods, California 4. Tease 44. Chinese "way" 5. Banana relative 46. Mailed 46. Church official 47. Biblical victim Always, poetically 6. 49. Revolve 48. "Not as lovely as a tree"? 7. 68-Across e.g. 50. Truly 50. Charlotte or Norma 8. Barely manage 51. Interfered (with) 51. "What are you, some 9. With 15-Down, flaky 52. On the up and up kind of ____?" pastry 53. Cognizant 53. Greek letters 10. Bronco's venue 54. Neighbor of Oman 55. Fertilizer ingredient 11. Author Horatio 58. Practice jabs 58. Koreans, e.g. 12. Actress Close 60. Drive-____ 62. Friday 15. Shorthand taker 61. Butcher's cut 63. Place for rolls 18. Grieve 62. Duel tool 65. Shepherd's, for one 24. First name in jazz 65. Coach Parseghian 66. Fifth wheel? 26. Annoy

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

Jack and Nellie's

Continued from Page 42

wine for serious wine tasters.

We broke our own rule arriving within their opening week. Usually we wait a few weeks for things to sort themselves out, so we were prepared to cut them some slack for birthing pains, but there was no need. Everything moved flawlessly.

The Bottom Line

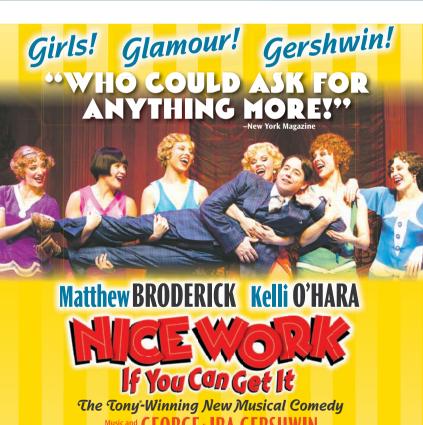
The menu at this newborn establishment is still a work in progress. Mr. Burke intends to begin serving brunch in the nottoo-distant. The bartender, he confided, is a wizard with desserts which will also be debuting soon. He may also be adding some favorites from the Emerald Isles like mini-shepherd's pies made the real way with lamb not beef. They could use a few more of the lighter nibbles in the veggie camp, but we're sure more good things are on the way.

Suzanne Parker is the *TimesLedger's* restaurant critic and author of "Eating Like Queens: A Guide to Ethnic Dining in America's Melting Pot, Queens, N.Y." She can be reached by e-mail at qnsfoodie@aol.com.

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Macbeth Did It - Written by John Patrick. Directed by Kevin C. Vincent. A hilarious backstage comedy take on the Shakespeare classic. When: Oct. 19, 20, 26 and 27, 8 pm; Oct. 21 and 28, 3 pm **Cost:** \$16. \$14 seniors/students Where: Colonial Church of Bayside, 54-02 217th St., Bayside **Contact:** (347) 358-8102 Website: www.theatretime.org

THEATER

Rebirth Art Slam 2013 – Aaron Lazansky, Venus Rodriguez and Harlon Avant will perform. When: Oct. 26, 3 pm Where: Afrikan Poetry Theatre. 176-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica

Contact: (718) 523-3312 Website: afrikapoetrytheatre. com

CALENDAR

AUDITIONS & REHEARSALS

Shortstack modeling

auditions – For the Seventh Annual Charity Fashion show for an 8-month self-esteem and modeling program for girls outside "industry standards." To audition, all girls must be 4 feet. 8 inches to 5 feet. 6 inches tall and between 14 and 22 years of age. Weight and experience are not a factor.

When: Oct. 20 Where: Junior High School 190, 68-17 Austin St., Forest Hills Contact: (718) 916-6037; info@ wooshortstack.org Website: wooshortstack.org/ become-a-model

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights **Circle Meeting –** Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion. workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties. When: Every other Wednesday. 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road. Great Neck Contact: Muriel, (718) 225-7382

THE ARTS C ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

Tuesday Morning Music Club -A lecture and demonstration on Ben Franklin by Cecilia Brauer. When: Oct. 23, 11 am Where: Community Church of Douglaston, 39-50 Douglaston PKWY., Douglaston Contact: (718) 229-2169 Website: communitychurchofdouglaston. org

Broadway Rox – Six Broadway stars perform a selection of songs.

When: .0ct. 27 and 28 Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686 Website: gueenstheatre.org

KIDS & FAMILY

The Amazing Maize Maze -Enjoy getting lost in our 3-acre interactive corn maze. When: Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 28. 11 am Where: Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwv., Floral Park Contact: (718) 347-3276 Website: queensfarm.org

LVENTS

Astoria Comedy All Stars - Ben Rosenfeld hosts five different comics each week. Comics range from underground NYC acts to nationally touring headliners. The show is absolutely free, no cover charge and no drink minimum. When: Tuesdays, 8 pm Where: On the Rox Lounge, 43-03 Broadway, Astoria Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@ bigbencomedy.com Website: bigbencomedy.com/

blog/archives/astoria comedy all stars

First Sundays for Families

- The Queens Museum of Art and MetLife Foundation invite families of all ages to an exciting array of interactive dance, art and music workshops. When: First Sunday of each month, 1:30-4:30 pm Cost: Free Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Contact: (718) 592-9700

GALLERIES & Exhibits

Halloween Spooktacular - Inspired by the exhibition "Caribbean: Crossroads of the World." When: Oct. 20, 2 pm Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona **Contact:** (718) 592-9700 Website: queensmuseum.org

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NE



Borough Beat

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARGIULO



GREEN GUYS

City Councilman James Gennaro (I.-r.) joins Melrose Credit Union CEO Alan Kaufman, Solar One Business Development Official Mickey Bennett and state Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz on the roof of the credit union, at 139-30 Queens Blvd. in Briarwood. Melrose Credit Union spent two years planning and executing the green roof, which includes specially selected grasses to absorb water and heat, as well as a 25-kilowatt solar array that provides 20 percent of the building's power.



Pitching In

New York Mets pitchers Robert Carson, Jeremy Hefner and Josh Edgin and delivered meals to homebound elderly residents in Whitestone with Citymeals-on-Wheels.



OFFICERS' OATH

City Councilman Dan Halloran (second from r.) was at the September meeting of the Auburndale Improvement Association, where he administered the oath of office to the incoming slate of officers.



OLD AND GOLD The Senior Club at Sacred Heart Church honored some of its members at its June meeting.



Cultural Studies

A group of Queens College students from different ethnic backgrounds spent part of their summer learning what it takes to be a leader in a four-day program run by the college's Asian-American Center. Developed by the college's Urban Studies Professor and AAC Director Madhulika Khandelwal, the third annual Summer Leadership Institute examined key issues in Asian-American communities, such as youth poverty, the generation gap, racial discrimination, immigrant rights and cross-cultural fluency.



FIRST CALL

In conjunction with a special first responders mass to honor law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel, Holy Cross High School in Flushing in September unveiled a new, permanent memorial to the 17 members of the Holy Cross community who died on 9/11. Photo by Dominick Totino Photography



FIT RECIPIENT

Cassandra Holden (I.) of Bayside was honored with a Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence from the State University of New York system, of which the Fashion Institute of Technology is a college, and she received a bachelor's degree in advertising and marketing communications.



Solar Power

The Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association flipped the switch on its new solar installation during the "Switch to Solar" event at the Center for Automotive Education & Training. The event was held in Whitestone with state Sen. Toby Stavisky and state Assembly members Margaret Markey and Edward Braunstein presiding.



'Love' THE COURT

City Councilman James Gennaro joins youngsters from his district at the free New York Junior Tennis League program at Pomonok Park in Flushing. Gennaro funds the program, which gives children from all skill levels a chance to experience the sport.

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Continued from Page 4

Biz

And on the nonprofit's website, AKRF is listed as one of its community supporters under a heading

Katz

Continued from Page 4

"People are being priced out of the places they want to be," said Katz, noting that she was the chairwoman of the powerful Land Use Committee during her time in the Council. "And schools are clearly a huge issue for parents folks in my neighborhood alone tell me that picking the right school is always a challenge. Making sure we have quality schools in every single borough is an important aspect of the job."

And it is a job that

Hearing

Continued from Page 4

themselves from criticism by doing this," said Jerry Vattamala, a staff attorney at the fund. "Some people in the community feel like, what is the point of the hearings?"

The commission did not respond to a request for that reads: "Thanks to their generous support, the LDC is able to vigorously pursue exciting development initiatives for the greater Flushing Willets Point Corona area."

In 2009, AKRF was a sponsor of a gala put on by the LDC, according to Nicholas Roberts, a project manager at the nonprofit, and Do said she volunteers time to brief the nonprofit on the progress of the Flushing waterfront project.

In July. Shulman's

Katz believes she is qualified to do, given her years of experience working with legislators in Queens. Other possible challengers for the office include Councilmen Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) and Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) and state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst).

"Each candidate brings their own expertise to the position, but I worked for Shulman and I know what the job is," she said. "I spent three years going to community board meetings and civic associations representing the borough president. It brings me the perspective of knowing the office and knowing what can be done with the of-

comment by press time. The commission has

offered several resources for the public to learn about redistricting. including a program on its website where residents can draw their own districts.

At last week's hearing, much of the talk focused on the division of Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park, which are currently bisected by Lefferts Boulevard.

Motorcycle

Continued from Page 5

"We need more direction. We need more information." DenDekker said. "The city needs to work with us. Not against us."

John Sessa, director of the New York City Harley Owners Group and a resident of College Point, said he believed that exempting motorcycles from having to use the Muni-Meter would be a good way to promote a form of travel he characterized as environmentally friendly. He said his car gets 15 miles to the gallon. but his motorcycle gets 40 miles to the gallon.

"It will save gasoline.

LDC was also found to have illegally lobbied city legislators by attempting to curry favor for the Willets Point project while being legally barred from doing so, according to state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

But Roberts said the LDC has not been involved with the Willets Point project since it initially was approved by the City Council in 2008, a year before AKRF was a gala sponsor.

fice"

Katz still calls Forest Hills home and is raising her two children in the same house where she grew up. Leaving Queens never entered her mind even as a student at the University of Massachusetts, she would routinely return home on weekends.

"It was like a commuter school for me," she said. "People come from all over the world for the opportunities available in Queens. The cultures and backgrounds are what make the borough the place it is and bringing it all together is an honor that should be celebrated. If you live in Queens, you know the beauty of it."

and changes proposed in what is known as the Unity Maps, which have redrawn districts for the entire city. A representative from

the Queens Civic Congress also provided the commission with a comprehensive map of Queens, proposing changes that would keep neighborhoods across the borough together.

It will save energy," Sessa said.

In response to the question of whether car drivers would think it unfair for motorcyclists to be exempt from paying for parking while cars would need receipts. Vallone said he understood.

"But right now it's not fair that motorcycles are ticketed when there's no way for them to obey the law," he said.

Cornell

Continued from Page 5

pected to use. Also in that timeframe, a corporate colocation building, an executive education center that includes hotel facilities and a building for students and faculty to live will be built. The first phase includes 125,000 square feet of open space as well.

The entire campus is expected to be fully built out in 2037. At that time the campus will house about 2,000 full-time graduate students.

Cornell said the build-

Avella

Continued from Page 9

not made a dent," Avella said. "The culture of corruption in Albany will not and cannot change without a truly independent investigative ethics commission."

Concannon, a retired captain of the New York Police Department and former public safety adviser to Mayor Rudy Giuliani, also accused Avella of supporting "anti-American ideologies" earlier this month in a robocall his campaign sent out to voters within the district.

first. The environment is important," Halloran said. "But we shouldn't be saving the caribou while we're giving money to dictators in the Middle East who are using it to blow us up."

Halloran does not support the Affordable Health Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, and like many of his GOP counterparts he thinks that states could do a better job, contending New York's Health Plus programs could be expanded.

Halloran and Meng both have pledged to protect Social Security. Halloran wants to do so by forbidding any money raised from the Social Security ings will be constructed amid several central open spaces that will give students and faculty views of both the Queens and Manhattan skylines.

"The campus plan was designed to be open to everyone, and we look forward to sharing this unique vision with all New Yorkers over the next seven months and beyond," Cathy Dove, vice president of the new campus, said in a statement.

The Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute is being built after its parent institutions won a contest held by the city Economic Development Corp. and

The call, which referred to Avella's attending September's Muslim Dav Parade in Manhattan. asked constituents. "Did vou know that Tony Avella went to Manhattan to support a radical Islamic preacher who supports anti-American ideologies last week?"

Avella addressed the attacks, calling them despicable and saving Concannon's robocall failed to mention his storming off stage at the event after one speaker made anti-American and -Israel remarks.

Moving forward. Concannon said he would

Trust Fund to be put into the general fund.

On some social issues. Halloran moves closer to the political center. He supports a woman's right to have an abortion for victims of rape and incest, and also for any woman up until the end of the first trimester in her pregnancy. The GOPer also supports civil unions, including all benefits accorded to married couples, but opposes same-sex marriage, saying the government should not have been involved in religious matters in the first place.

He supports giving illegal immigrants the chance for permanent residency, but has also proposed to make English the official language of the country and require ballots to only be printed in English. He Mayor Michael Bloomberg, challenging universities to create a graduate school that will be a job magnet in exchange for free real estate and \$100 million in city capital. Elected officials and business leaders from Long Island City advocated for the campus to be built at Roosevelt Island, given its proximity to the neighborhood and accessibility via public transportation.

The new school is accepting applications for its first class. which will be held in January in Web giant Google's Chelsea offices in Manhattan.

campaign on the issues, such as reducing taxes and regulations and creating a smaller, more effective government, all with almost \$100.000 less in campaign contributions, according to the city Board of Elections' campaign finance records.

Earlier this week, Avella announced an endorsement he received from the Police Benevolent Association to tack onto his list. which includes the Flushing Letter Carriers Association Branch 294, 1199 SEIU and the Hotel Trades Council.

contends that offering adult language classes would be a better way to engage recent immigrants.

Halloran has traded multiple barbs with his opponent thus far in the race, but has come under criticism himself.

After blasting Meng for failing to file financial disclosure statements for months after the deadline. Halloran was found to have missed post-election filings following his successful 2009 bid for the Council. One of his delinquent filings was passed on to the Albany district attorney, according to the state Board of Elections.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@ cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Halloran Continued from Page 9

Divorce Caribbean Style

For a growing number of New Yorkers, tired of the delays and expense of conventional require travel to the court, local divorces, fast, inexpensive Caribbean and offshore US divorces have been the answer.

A leader in the fast divorce business has been Divorcefast.com of Massachusetts, a company that has been providing speedy, low-cost foreign divorces for 50 years. The company provides divorces that can be completed in as little as one day in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the US offshore island of Guam.

proprietor of Divorce.com, some of the divorces offered while some can be done without any travel or court appearance. Some require both parties to sign the court petition for divorce, while others can be achieved with only one party signing. All of the divorces happen very quickly and with a minimum amount of paperwork.

The divorces are valid and recognized everywhere, and Alford reports that he processes several thousand of them every year, particularly for New Yorkers. The total

at \$895, with other options raising the price to as high as \$1,500. All of the divorces, Alford says, are completed within a few days and the clients are then free to remarry or otherwise continue with their lives as single persons. Anyone interested in more details about the Divorcefast offerings should access the company website: www.divorcefast.com The forms and instructions are printed out from there and submitted to the company. For those lacking Internet access Alford and his staff are prepared to discuss foreign divorces on the phone, or by mail.



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SE Queens Congressman's pal pleads guilty to fraud charges

Meeks.

BY RICH BOCKMANN

One of U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks' (D-Jamaica) friends, a real estate agent who gave the congressman \$40,000 in 2007, faces a hefty sentence after he pleaded guilty last week to a scheme in which he defrauded banks to secure mortgages for unqualified homeowners in southeast Queens.

Edul Ahmad — or Ed, as he is known by the congressman — faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine after he pleaded guilty Oct. 10 in Brooklyn federal court to conspiring to commit bank fraud and wire fraud.

There was speculation that during the trial prosecutors prodded Ahmad to give up information about a House Ethics Committee investigation looking into the \$40,000 he gave to Authorities said that since 1995 Ahmad and his co-conspirators used straw buyers and falsified mortgage applications in order to swindle more than \$50 million from a dozen Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.-backed lending institutions.

The straw buyers would receive a payout for standing in for the homes' true purchasers, who could not get a mortgage loan in many cases.

As evidence against Ahmad, prosecutors laid out nine specific incidences where he ran his scam to get loans for homes in Hollis, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Jamaica.

By the time Ahmad was indicted in 2011, the Office of Congressional Ethics had traced a home equity loan Meeks had taken out in 2010 back to the \$40,000 he received from his pal.

According to the office's report, Ahmad gave Meeks the money in 2007, though the congressman failed to report the money in either his 2007, 2008 or 2009 financial disclosure statements.

Days before he was to file his 2010 disclosures, Meeks took out a \$59,650 home equity loan from another friend's company, Four M Investments LLC, which he used to pay Ahmad back, according to the Office of Congressional Ethics.

The owner of Four M told investigators there was a sense of urgency to get the deal done and that the congressman's lawyers were compelled to have Meeks pay back Ahmad the balance plus a high interest rate so the \$40,000 appeared as a legitimate loan, according to the report.



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Molloy's Christos Mouzakitis (I.) and St. Francis Prep's Michael Fields battle for the ball. Archbishop Molloy played St. Francis Preparatory in a soccer match at Kissena Park in Flushing last week. Photo by Christina Santucci

Queens soccer clubs dominate the pitch

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The top boys' soccer teams from Queens have proven to be kings of the CHSAA so far.

Defending city champion St. Francis Prep, perennial power Archbishop Mollov and a budding Christ the King program are the only Class AA teams with 10 wins or more coming into this week. Just three points separated the clubs in the Brooklyn/Queens division. Molloy, which ended St. Francis Prep's 10-game winning streak last week, sits alone in first place.

"It's very good to see there are a lot of good players in the Queens vicinity," Christ the King Coach Ovid Cusu said. "On the other hand, it's bad because we have to compete against each other."

The race could cause a sticky situation. There could be a three-way tie for first if all the teams win out, including Christ the King beating defending Catholic state champ Ford-

ham Prep. It would set up a showdown between Mollov and Christ the King this Thursday that could determine first place.

If CK wins, the teams would split the head-tohead match-ups. The division title and a key playoff seed would be decided by the goals-for stats. The most you can earn is a plus-three per game.

In the playoffs, the team that comes in third faces a tougher intersectional quarterfinal game and a possible date with the Brooklyn/Queens winner in the semifinals. A second-place finish allows that team to avoid the other two until the final.

"It's going to be interesting," St. Francis Prep Coach Franco Purificato said.

The coaches aren't exactly sure the reason for Queens' dominance of the league outside Fordham Prep. One possibility is the effect of the new rule put in place by the U.S. Soccer De-

Continued on Page 53

Trinity beats Cross defense

BY JOE PANTORNO

Holy Trinity gave Holy Cross a chance to win the game just as the Knights were about to see their lead evaporate. The Titans pulled within a point on quarterback Chris Laviano's touchdown in the closing minutes and then aggressively chose to go for a two-point conversion instead of the extra point and the tie.

The Rutgers-bound senior, who victimized Cross on the football field all afternoon, appeared to be in trouble as a draw play on the two-point conversion attempt broke down. Somehow Laviano managed to tip-toe into the end zone with 1:43 left in the game to hand visiting Holy Cross a 22-21 defeat in CHSFL Class AAA football Saturday afternoon.

The Knights had a chance to end the game before it came down to that, but Brandon Pelzer had an interception go through his hands at the Holy Cross 15-yard line a few plays earlier.

"We just couldn't get that big stop," said Knights Coach Tom Pugh. "It was not a good day."

Laviano thought his team had momentum after the score and decided to go for it. Trinity Coach Tony Mascia said he had faith in his defense to hold the lead if it got it. Laviano had no doubt about his team, even as the play went awry.

"In the heat of the moment, I knew I was going to make it," Laviano said.

Holy Cross got on the



Holy Cross cornerback Brandon Jackson receives the ball during a game against Stepinac at Bayside Field earlier this year. Photo by Ken Maldonado

board first in the second quarter when running back Brandon Pelzer scored from 8 yards out for the first of three touchdowns. The junior rushed for 161 yards on the day as Cross' wildcat formation caused problems for the Trinity defense.

"He had a solid game," Pugh said. "Our running game was solid and our offensive line did a good job."

Added Mascia: "That wildcat formation. It was difficult to stop."

Laviano answered with his first touchdown pass of the day, a 15-yard slant to Aidan Campolettano with 22 seconds left in

the half to make it 7-7.

The Titans started the second half the way they ended the first — with another Laviano touchdown pass. This time a 13-yard strike to Kevin Knab gave Trinity a 14-7 advantage. Laviano finished the day with 210 yards in the air.

"I just tried to stay calm in the pocket," he said. "I just made my reads, sat back there and threw it around."

Holy Cross regained control of the game toward the end of the third quarter when Pelzer took a quarterback draw 29 yards down the right sideline to bring the Knights within 14-13 after a missed extra point. At running back on the next drive, Pelzer was at it again with an 18-yard burst up the middle for a touchdown. A two-point conversion put the Knights up 21-14 with 11:19 left in the game.

"The offense made some big plays," Pugh said. "I was happy with that."

That couldn't be said for the defense late in the game as it missed out on two opportunities to put the win away.

"We had a chance," Pugh said. "The effort just was not there on defense.'

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Knights fall after later two-point conversion gives Titans edge

⁵² Molloy hangs tough against strong Fontbonne

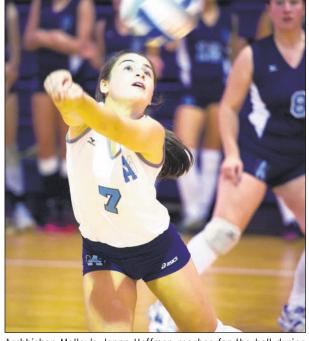
BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Archbishop Molloy had enough. Unhappy with its uneven play, the Stanners took out their frustrations on Fontbonne Hall in the fifth and deciding volleyball set. "We were just get-

TimesLedger, Oct. 18-24, 2012 TIMESLEDGER.COM

ting mad and aggravated because we were playing down instead of playing to what we are capable of playing," senior outside hitter Madeline Casello said. "We took it out on the ball and came together."

The Stanners ripped off nine of the first 10 points of the final set to help finish off a 25-13, 19-25, 25-23, 20-25, 25-8 win over the Bonnies in CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division I girls' volleyball Friday night in Briarwood. It is the second time in two



Archbishop Molloy's Jenna Hoffman reaches for the ball during the game against Bronx Science at Francis Lewis High School in Queens. Photo by Denis Gostev

weeks the squads went five sets with Molloy winning both to take the season series 3-0.

Molloy (8-2) showed a similar resolve in a backand-forth third set. Molloy finally pulled ahead 24-20 on an Erica Byrne kill. Fontbonne (4-6) then rallied to pull as close as 24-23, but Molloy won the final point when a Bonnies' blocker made contact with the net as Bryne looked for a kill.

"This game was a mirror of the last game," Molloy assistant Coach Rose Ruesing said. "This team seems to embrace adversity."

Casello was the star. She blasted 14 kills and had 13 digs to get Molloy off to a fast start in the first set and dominated the front of the net at times. Ruesing praised her defense as much as her attacking, calling it one of the keys to the match. Jenna Hoffman recorded 22 digs and Emily Rabot added seven kills. Amanda Price dished out 22 assists and Anna Pastina had 12.

"Maddie is our powerhouse," Hoffman said. "We always say when Maddie is on when she hits the ball, no one can dig it."

The win is a continuation of one of Molloy's best stretches of the season. The Stanners won the Francis Lewis tournament Oct. 8. They beat Long Island power Sacred Heart in the semifinals and Susan Wagner, the PSAL city title favorite, in the final.

"It boosted our confidence," Hoffman said. "It showed us what we are capable of." She and the coaching staff believe the squad is capable of much more. Head Coach Steve Leoutsakos has been stressing finishing and hitting to lines and open spaces instead of the middle of the floor.

Molloy still struggled at times and Casello knows that will be one of the keys in the team's final meeting with rival and five-time defending diocesan champion St. Francis Prep Oct. 18, after losing the first two matches 3-0. Molloy will use that match as a barometer for how much they have improved.

"It showed us how much better we are than what we are playing," Casello said of the current stretch. "It's kind of motivation to have a little more push for us."

Francis Lewis volleyball team building up chemistry

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Melissa Chu heard all she needed to when given the task of being Francis Lewis' top setter. The team's best player, Regina Anthony, along with her other teammates, immediately voiced their confidence in the inexperienced junior.

"The person who told me she believed in me was Regina," Chu said. "It really helped a lot. She said she had faith in me."

Chu, who splits some time with classmate Kenya Medina, was thrust into the role because last year's setter, senior Stacy Paickattu, left the team in the preseason. It left Lewis searching for a setter for the second straight season. Anthony, however, believes they will have both for two years and has tried to cultivate their growth.

"They had never really played in a game," Anthony, a junior, said. "I try to ease off them. They are new. I am trying to just help them out."

Lewis Coach Arnie Rosenbaum said his team was a city title favorite with Paickattu in the lineup. He still believes his team



Francis Lewis' Melissa Chu sets the ball during the game against Belmore Kennedy in Queens last week. Photo by Denis Gostev

can compete to do just that, but breaking in new setters has posed familiar and new challenges. Chu and Medina's small size has left Lewis struggling to block up from against bigger teams. He believes they have good chemistry with Anthony, a dominant outside sitter, but they need to get better with fellow outside hitter Naya Harris.

"It's a good combination," Rosenbaum said of Anthony and Regina. "When the setters start connecting with Naya, we will be better."

Harris realized her potential last season and was a big reason why Lewis reached the final a year ago and contributed a big nine-kill performance in a semifinal upset of top-seeded Stuyvesant. Rosenbaum likes what he has seen from libero Sandra Arcabascio. Her play and that of right side Michelle Gomez and outside Tennese Gardiner has Lewis off to a successful start.

The team is 4-1 in Queens A East and fell 25-17, 25-17 to defending city champion Cardozo last week. Rosenbaum was encouraged by his team's performance against Long Island power Sacred Heart at Lewis' annual tournament. The Patriots, though, later fell to Bronx Science, another possible title contender. Lewis isn't looking to the plays yet, just continuing to improve before it gets there.

"I feel like we are getting better as a whole," Chu said. "We are learning how to play together still. It's getting progressively easier."

Cardozo remains undefeated after win over Francis Lewis

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Danny Scarola could sense the nerves in his young team heading into their first meeting with rival Francis Lewis since beating them in last year's volleyball final.

"They were nervous. They told me," the Cardozo coach said. "You saw it a little in the beginning."

The Judges opened the match with a number of errant passes and service errors. Cardozo snapped out of it quickly, kept its composure the rest of the way and beat visiting Francis Lewis 25-17, 25-17 in PSAL Queens A West girls' volleyball Oct. 10. The win moves the Judges (5-0) into sole possession of first place.

"They were able to calm down and say, 'You know what? Let's play them like any other team," Scarola said. "They did a good job controlling the emotions."

There was a tense moment in a close second set. Francis Lewis (3-1) pulled within 18-17. It forced Scarola to call time out in the belief his club had lost its mental edge. The players responded by scoring seven straight points to seal the win. Senior Cassidy Chen

Soccer

The academy sched-

ule now runs for 10 months

from September to June

and makes players chose

between playing for their

high school or an academy.

Molloy Coach Andy Kostel

said it has penalized teams

emies in our area," he said.

"We got hurt an awful lot.

I think Iona and Fordham

got hurt with different

kinds of plays. Maybe ours

"We have three acad-

in a different way.

Continued from Page 51

velopment Academy.



Francis Lewis' Ragina Anthony receives the ball during the game against Belmore Kennedy in Francis Lewis High School.

Photo by Denis Gostev

recorded a number of aces, Adriana Braciak put down key kills and Simaran Wilson added a big block that changed the momentum.

Freshman Alexis Harrison recorded seven kills in one of the best performances of her young career for Cardozo. Braciak had five kills and nine digs. Libero Rachel Ng had a strong performance in the back and setter Jessica Yin added 17 assists. Melissa Chu led Francis Lewis with eight assists and Regina Anthony chipped in five kills.

The win is a big one for a Cardozo team that was expected to take a step back after losing its core of seniors from back-to-back championship clubs.

"I think it definitely gave them a boost," Scarola said. "We are good enough to be competitive in every game."

aren't the best."

Purificato seems to believe Queens' surge may be just a byproduct of a down year for the league. He said he only has one academy player in Eric Mirkov now that star Kenny Redzematovic is out for the season with a torn ACL.

"I don't think we are any better or worse than we've been," Purificato said. "I just think the league in general might be a step down."

Molloy lost up to 10 players for the varsity and JV teams to the academies, but only one of them would have been one of the Top 5 players on the team, according to Kostel. Christ the King lost four players, including star goalie Christian Nolasco and Frederico Curbelo.

Despite that, the three teams' depth of talent has them favored to reach the intersectional semifinals. The path they will have to take to get there will play out this week.

"The level has raised," Cusu said. "Whoever comes in hungry that day is probably going to win. We are capable of beating each other."

Tatum chooses to head south for James Madison basketball

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

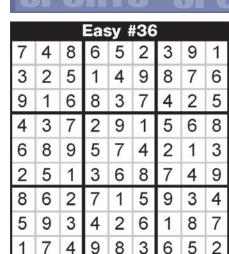
Amani Tatum headed to James Madison University for her first official visit with an open mind and was in no hurry to make a college decision. She left with her mind made up and a longing to return.

The Archbishop Molloy senior point guard verbally committed to play women's basketball at the Virginia school Sunday, she told TimesLedger Newspapers. Tatum chose Coach Kenny Brooks and the CAA program over Delaware, Seton Hall, Towson and Virginia Tech.

"Before I got on the plane, I couldn't leave the state without letting him know that's where I wanted to be," she said.

The 5-foot-6 Tatum did so because she got that feeling she said she heard others talk about. She sensed in her heart that James Madison was where she wanted to spend the next four years of her life. Tatum felt an immediate family connection with the players and the coaching staff. She wants to study communications with a minor in psychology and also built a strong rapport with the major's adviser on her visit.

"Just knowing that they want you there and want you a part of the fam-





Amani Tatum shoots from the foul line. Photo by Christina Santucci

ily was one of the biggest things," Tatum said.

There will be a chance for immediate playing time. James Madison loses senior point guard Tarik Hislop after this season. Tatum joins a program that has enjoyed consistent success. The Dukes won the conference tournament in 2010 and 2011 to reach the NCAA tournament and lost in the WNIT finals last season.

"It's a good feeling just knowing I am going to go somewhere and be able to compete and get better every year," Tatum said.

"I think that conference is a [good] fit for her where she can do really well," Molloy coach Scott Lagas said.

Tatum, who plays her travel ball with the NYC

Bulldogs, said it was her leadership and tenacity that appealed to the coaching staff at James Madison. It is that same skill set that makes her one of the city's top players.

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Her unwavering desire to win, her ability to break down defenses off the dribble and a budding jump shot helped lead Archbishop Molloy to the state Federation Class AA title as a sophomore and to the CHSAA Class AA state semifinals last season.

"Amani is such a competitor," Lagas said. "That girl. She doesn't want to lose at a coin flip."

Tatum can go into this season with a clear head about her decision and the support of those around her.

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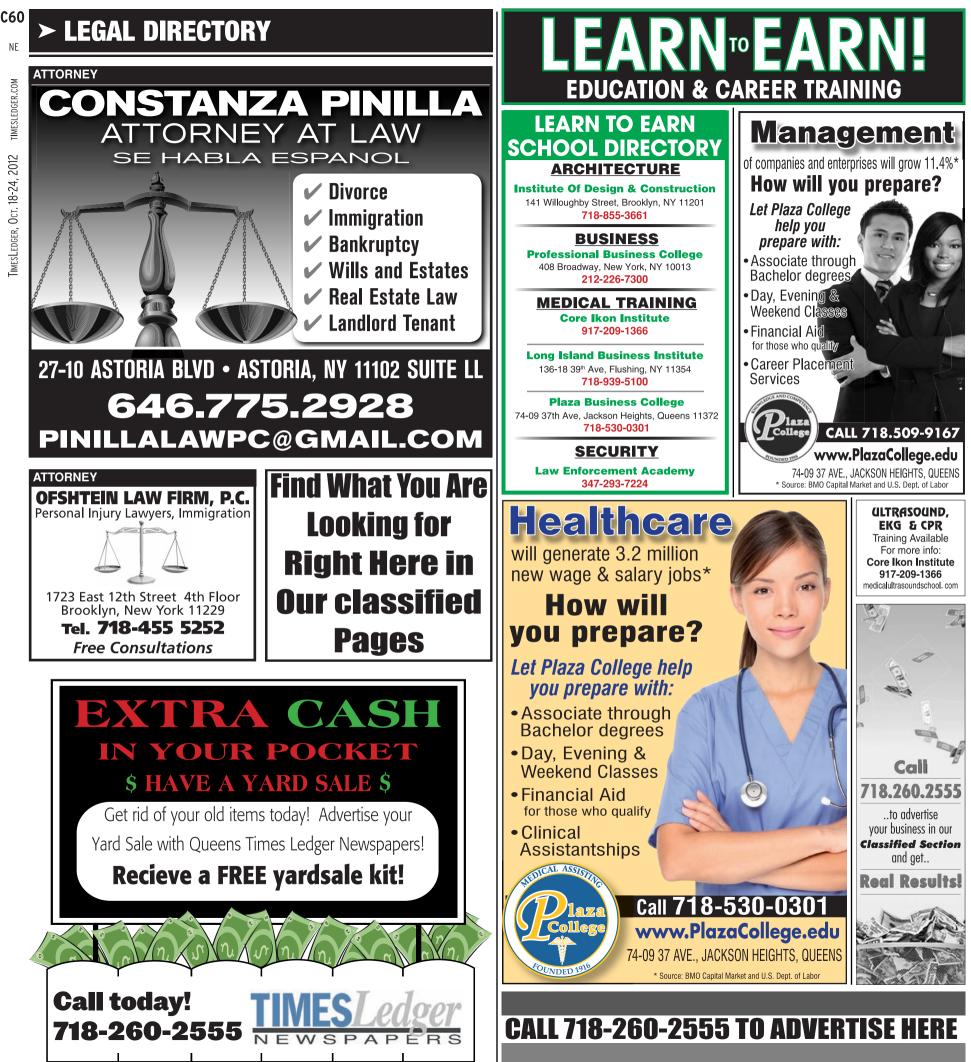
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